

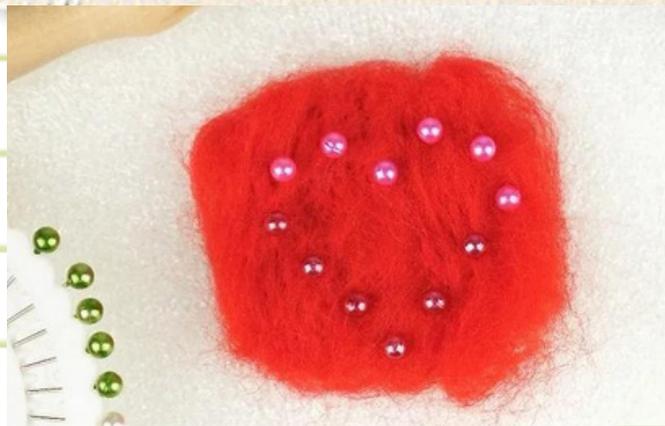


Needle Felting Tips

Felting is an old craft that continues to be enjoyed today. The process transforms wool into dense material by bonding and shrinking the fibers together. There are two ways to accomplish this. The first is to knit a shape, such as a hat, and then shrink it by washing, agitating, and drying it. This is known as wet felting. The other method is dry felting. Roving or wool is shaped and made dense and connected using needles. Using this method you can create all kinds of artistic, three-dimensional shapes.



Tip #1: Tear a sheet of wool at least 1/2" thicker on all sides than your planned shape. Since you will compress the wool with the needle, you need extra bulk.



Tip #2: Place the wool on the foam and, free-form or using straight pins to mark the shape, use the felting needle in an up and down motion to compress the fibers starting from the edges and working in.



Tip #3: Once the front of your shape is compressed and smooth, peel the wool off the foam and flip it to finish the reverse.



Tip #4: Cookie cutters are another simple way to shape your wool. If you are making a shape with a lot of depth, add layers of wool gradually rather than all at once.