

RIVER CITY YARNS



Felted Soap

Wool wrapping is a fun way to present soap, and felted soap has a built in washcloth and creates a rich, thick lather. You do not need to worry about the wool becoming too large for your soap because it will continue to felt, shrinking with your soap, as you use it.

Preparation: Make several 12" x 12" square roving "beds", from roving that is pulled apart and fanned out. Take a long length of your roving, about 18 inches. Split it length wise. Fan out the fibers to make a wide strip, about 1.5 inches wide. The wool should be open and loose; not be thick and dense. It is better to have more layers of fanned wool than it is to have a big chunk of roving as the wrapping. Make layers – with fibers laid out vertically and then change the direction of the next layer – lay the fibers horizontally.

Place soap in the bottom corner of the square and wrap it up like a gift – bring a corner over the soap, then fold in one side, turn soap over and fold in the second side. Turn soap over again and continue to wrap and when you get to the opposite corner, turn your bar of soap a quarter turn counter clockwise, place it in another square and wrap the soap again. Make sure that the corners are well covered. Repeat until you have a thick layer of wool wrapped evenly around the bar.

- **Felt:** submerge the soap into hot water. Squeeze out water gently and rub, making small circles with your thumb and fingers, rubbing the roving into the soap. It will take several minutes of dunking the soap in the hot water and rubbing, but eventually the roving will start to attach to the soap and shrink around the soap. The roving has now felted enough so it will not move freely. Now you can rub vigorously so the wool creates a firm blanket around your soap.
- **Dry:** once the wool is completely felted tight around the bar of soap, you are done. Let the bar dry – place it on a cookie rack so it can dry completely.
- **Wrap:** when the bars are completely dry – wrap them with a pretty silk ribbon and tie a bow... it makes a great gift for someone special.



Felted soap will last a long time. As the soap shrinks, so does the wool. Once the soap has been used up you have a small batting of wool, which makes a wonderful "pouch" to slip a trinket in or a drop of essential oil to be used as a sachet.