

## Fun with Felting

This is an easy felting project, and there are lots of other fun things you can go on to make with the scraps from this project.



The nice thing about felt is that it doesn't need to be hemmed, and once properly felted, the wool will not unravel.

With a little imagination, you can alter this craft to make a soda coozy, or even a coffee cup coozy! You can use the larger sweater scraps to make something as simple as a coaster, or look online for a pattern to make mittens!

If you knit or crochet, there are patterns online to make over-sized bags that can then be washed and felted down to sturdy smaller bags.

Felt was the earliest use of sheep's wool, long ago. In medieval times, wool clothing was often made from felt rather than woven cloth. In colonial times, the poorer quality wool from a sheep was set aside and felted to make hats, shoes, or other items. Wool is a unique fiber with microscopic "scales". Heat, soap suds and pressure will force the fibers together. Once so treated, the fibers' scales bind and will not easily come apart again.



# Make a Felted Wool Soap Saver Pouch Craft

Winters Heritage House Museum, Elizabethtown, PA  
www.ElizabethtownHistory.org



Soap pouches are easy to make, and a great way to keep a handle on slippery soap bars. When wet, the soap suds move right through the felt and the felted surface even acts as a washcloth. You will get the most out of a bar of soap this way, and they are completely re-useable! Felting is fun, easy and great way to recycle!

You will need; Sewing supplies; yarn, scissors, yarn needle, and an old wool sweater.

Skills; Felting, scissors cutting, basic sewing, tying. Concepts; Assembly, following direction, wool fiber knowledge, recycling.

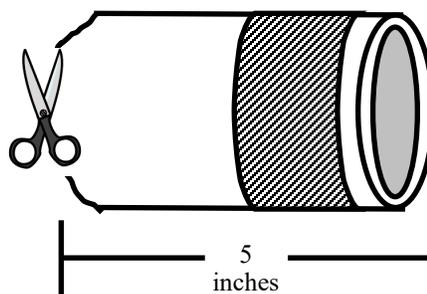
Take an old sweater and wash it on hot, then dry it on high heat. The sweater will shrink! Not only will it be smaller, but the wool will be thicker. The wool fibers have felted. Also, once felted, the wool will not unravel when you cut it.



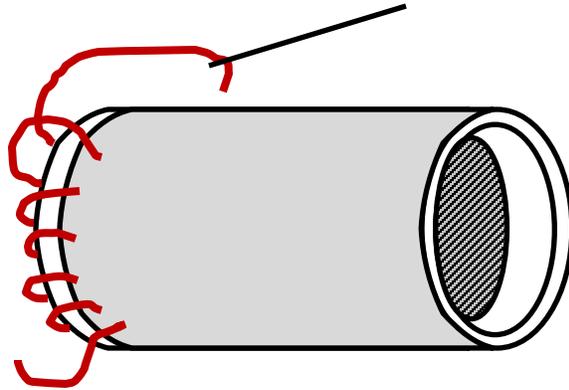
Turn your felted sweater inside out. Cut off the sweater sleeves. These are the easiest parts to make soap pouches from.



You will need to measure from the cuff and trim the sleeve to about 5 inches long. Set aside the remaining sweater. You can use the rest of the felt to make more pouches, once you get the hang of it.



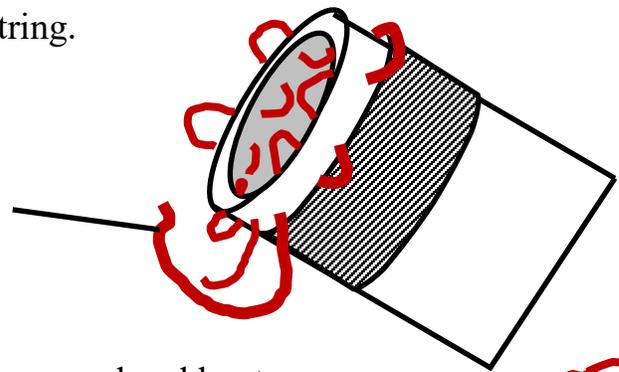
Carefully sew the cut end of sleeve-tube closed. Use a “Whip Stitch,” which means you pinch the fabric closed. Sew in one side and out the other, whip around the fabric ends, and back in the same side you started on. You will always go *in* side #1 and you will always come *out* side #2.



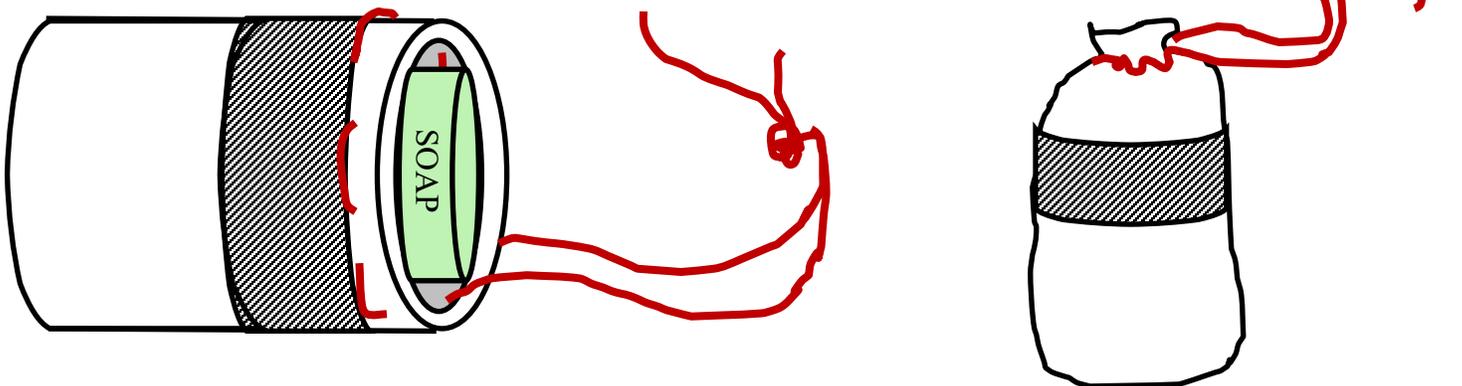
Sewing tip: Be sure to tie off the thread when you are done. If you sew across and back again, you can tie the thread ends together.

Turn the pouch right side out; cut a thick ribbon or cord approximately 10-12” long, thread a large eyed needle, and using a running stitch in the open end, about an inch from the end, stitch all the way around the open cuff to make a drawstring.

Tip: If your drawstring cord is too thick for a needle, carefully punch holes with a scissors tip or needle, all around the cuff, and thread the cord that way.



Tie the two ends of the cord or ribbon together in an overhand knot.



Drop a bar of soap into the pouch and pull the drawstring closed.

You’re now ready to use your soap saver in your shower or bath. When the soap bar is low, open the drawstring and add another bar. No need to remove the sliver inside, the pouch helps you hold them together, it’s a great way to get all the mileage you can from every bar.