

Wool Felt Lantern



What you will need:

- 50g felting wool in one colour
- Small amount of other colours for decoration
- A bowl of warm water
- Soap or washing up liquid
- A balloon
- A towel
- Bubble wrap
- Scissors
- A battery operated tealight



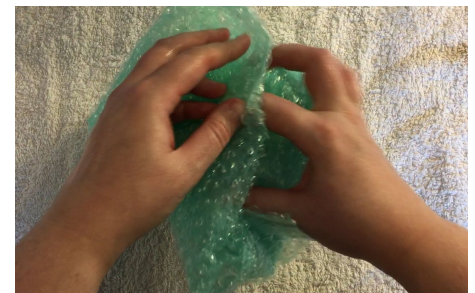
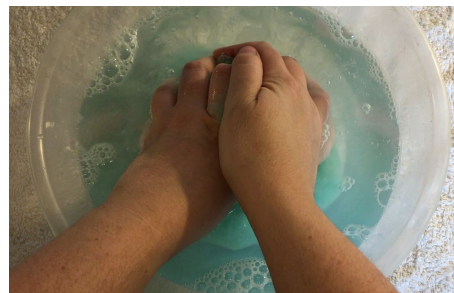
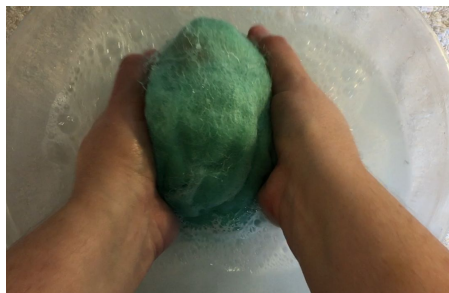
1. Take half of your wool and pull small even tufts and lay them down evenly on the table to create a rectangle about the size of an A4 piece of paper. If your wool already came as a sheet, separate it into two rectangles
2. Use the other colours of wool to lay small pieces in a pattern on top of the base colour



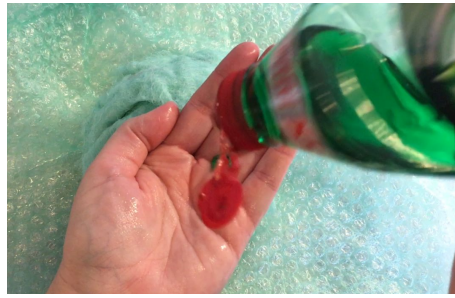
3. Blow up your balloon to the size of a large orange and wrap it in the wool sheet
4. Lay out another rectangle of wool and use this to wrap a second layer around the balloon



5. Fill your bowl half full with water and add a drop of washing up liquid
6. Take your wool-wrapped balloon in both hands and put it into the water



7. Soak up as much water as possible whilst holding the wool securely on the balloon
8. Place your bubble wrap sheet on top of your towel (bubbly side up - this helps to massage the felt)
9. Gently take the woolly balloon out of the water, make sure the wool hasn't clumped or thinned in any areas



10. Wrap it up inside of the bubble wrap and begin to gently roll it around on the towel
11. After a few minutes of rolling, unwrap the bubblewrap and check that the wool is in place and not lumpy
12. Test that the wool is felting together by pinching it and pulling gently. If the wool feels like it is starting to knit together, continue to roll it on top of the bubble wrap and add some soap to your hands to help



13. If it is still very soft and the fibres are loose, wrap it back in the bubble wrap and roll on the towel for a few minutes before testing again
14. Keep rolling until the wool tightens around the balloon and the surface is smooth
15. Once the wool is smooth and tightly fitted around the balloon, use the scissors the cut a hole in the top



16. Find the balloon in the hole and use the scissors to carefully puncture the balloon before removing it completely
17. Widen the hole if you need to and turn the felt side out so that the coloured wool is now in the outside
18. Wash the soap out of the wool by running it under a warm tap and squeezing out the soapy water



19. Once washed, use the scissors to cut holes in the sides of your wool felt lantern to let light through
20. You can add a handle by making 2 holes in the top of the lantern and tying ribbon or string through them
21. Use a battery powered tea light to light up your lantern