

WASHING RAW MOHAIR

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BEGIN WITH THE HOTTEST WATER AVAILABLE. USE TWICE THE VOLUME OF WATER THAN THE FLEECE YOU ARE WASHING. I USE ONE CAPFUL OF TIDE LIQUID DETERGENT (WITHOUT BLEACH OR ADDITIVES) FOR EVERY TWO POUNDS OF RAW FLEECE.

THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT WILL CAUSE FELTING. 1. CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE FROM HOT TO COLD OR VICE VERSA, AND... 2. AGITATION. KEEPING THIS IN MIND, FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

1. DRAW YOUR HOTTEST WATER AND ADD YOUR LIQUID TIDE. GENTLY SWIRL THE TIDE INTO THE WATER UNTIL EVENLY MIXED THROUGHOUT. SOMETIMES, IF THE FLEECE IS PARTICULARLY DIRTY, I WILL ADD ABOUT A HALF A CUP OF PLAIN AMMONIA.
2. LAY YOUR FLEECE ON TOP OF THE WATER AND GENTLY PUSH DOWN UNTIL IT IS BELOW THE SURFACE. I USE A SANDED WOODEN DOWEL FOR THIS. LEAVE YOUR FLEECE IN THIS HOT WATER BATH FOR 20–30 MINUTES. USING A PAIR OF RUBBER GLOVES, GENTLY REACH IN AND SQUEEZE/RELEASE THE FIBER. NOTE THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER AT THIS POINT.
3. REMOVE THE MOHAIR FROM THE WATER, GENTLY SQUEEZING IT TO REMOVE EXCESS WATER. POUR OUT THE DIRTY WATER AND REFILL WITH FRESH WATER THE SAME TEMPERATURE AS THE WATER YOU POURED OUT. REPEAT STEP 2 FOR RINSING.
4. IF THERE IS STILL SOAP REMAINING, RINSE AGAIN REPEATING STEP 3, THEN STEP 2.
5. AFTER RINSING, LAY YOUR FIBER IN A DRY AREA, OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT. ALLOW AT LEAST 2 DAYS TO DRY. I LIKE TO LAY MINE ON A MESH SCREEN SO THAT THE AIR CIRCULATES ABOVE AND BELOW.

****HINT: TO FACILITATE DRYING, YOU CAN PUT YOUR WET FIBER INTO ZIPPERED MESH SWEATER BAGS AND RUN THROUGH A "DRY" SPIN CYCLE OF YOUR WASHING MACHINE. TURN OFF ANY WATER SUPPLY FIRST!**