

Direct Glue Installation Instructions

3mm Wool Design Felt

These installation recommendations provided consist of common-sense practices for 3mm Wool Design Felt applied as a direct glue wallcovering installation. Installers should rely upon their own professional experience and understanding of their unique requirements to be the best guide to a successful installation. FilzFelt recommends obtaining the services of installers that have at least five (5) years experience in the installation of natural materials such as leather, cork, or 100% wool felt similar in size, scope, and complexity to the work of each project. For a list of recommended installers, please contact FilzFelt Customer Service.

Appropriate Felt Thickness

FilzFelt felts may be direct glued to any porous surface including wood and gypsum wallboard and do not require a backing material. When using the direct glue method to attach to a substrate, it is advisable to use 3mm thick felt only. 5mm, 8mm, and 10mm felts may exhibit clumping of fibers which may become more apparent in a direct glue application. It is also not recommended to downlight any felt installations as this may highlight the natural irregularities of natural wool felt.

Tools Needed

3/8" trowel

Adhesive appropriate to the substrate

Long, metal straight edge

Utility knife (such as Olfa or similar) with extra blades

Weighted roller

It is recommended that a cleaning solution be available to remove any adhesive that transfers onto the face of the wool felt. Adhesive must be removed with the solution before it has dried.

Adhesives + Mock-ups

Liquid Nails Heavy Duty Construction Adhesive or Liquid Nails Fiberglass Reinforced Panel Adhesive are recommended. Both adhesives provide strong bonding properties, low VOCs, and high strength adhesion for interior applications. If unfamiliar with wool felt installation, a mock-up area is recommended to test adhesives and methods. Wool is naturally hydrophilic and can absorb up to one-third (1/3) of its weight in water. Due to the one hundred percent (100%) wool content, the felt may shrink during the adhesive drying time. For butt seams to remain tight, adequate adhesion MUST occur at edges. Sufficient adhesive as well as adequately rolling the seams with a weighted roller is required to avoid open seams. If needed, the edges can be reinforced with a spray adhesive such as 3M Super 77 Multipurpose Adhesive. 3M Super 77 bonds instantly and does not allow for adjustment after placement.

Installation Instructions

- 1 Inspect the material. Wool felt is a natural material and minor changes and slight inclusions of natural fiber on the surface are evidence of the one hundred percent natural origin of the material. In addition, there is no right and wrong side to the material. It is advisable to inspect for these irregularities and plan the cutting, orientation, and piece selection to ensure that the "best side" will be visible. Any color variation should be planned for and distributed to provide an aesthetically pleasing installation.
In the case of product defect or damage in transit, FilzFelt must be notified within five (5) business days.
IMPORTANT: FilzFelt cannot accept a return or warranty claim on any material that is marked, cut, or installed.
- 2 Allow felt to acclimate to the installation environment. After the shipping crates have been opened, the felt bolts should be laid out individually on the floor for at least forty-eight (48) hours. Variations in temperature and humidity may affect the size.
- 3 Prepare the substrate to provide a smooth, even surface and prime. A Level 5 Finish (or comparable) surface that has been primed and finished is best to prevent any irregularities from telegraphing through the felt and becoming visible.
- 4 Felt purchased by the yard will not be delivered with finished edges and must be trimmed to provide plumb and straight edges. Cut the felt with a sharp utility knife (such as Olfa) and a metal straight edge. Make a first pass with light pressure to score the felt. Next, make one (1) to two (2) additional passes using firm pressure and making sure the blade is plumb.
IMPORTANT: Always use a sharp blade and change blades frequently as a dull blade will drag and stretch the material. As felt is a nonwoven textile, it will not fray when cut and no finishing of the edge is required.
FilzFelt offers pre-cut pieces and Customer Service can provide information on the cutting options.
- 5 Prepare a cleaning solution to remove any adhesive that transfers onto the face of the wool felt. A mild enzyme-based detergent (such as Tide Free) is recommended. Create a dilute solution by adding three (3) parts water to one (1) part detergent in a clean container. To remove adhesive before it has dried, use a clean paper towel to gently blot the detergent into area. Press and release, press and release. Using a separate container of clear water, use clean, moist paper towels to blot more water into the stain. Press and release, press and release. Finish by blotting firmly with clean, dry paper towels until the area is nearly dry. **IMPORTANT:** Adhesive must be removed before dry. Avoid aggressive rubbing, as this can continue the felting process and change the surface appearance of the felt.

- 6 Apply adhesive evenly and thoroughly with a 3/8" trowel to the wall area to be covered by the felt. Allow to cure per the adhesive manufacturer's application instructions. **IMPORTANT:** Installation of this product using caulking guns is not recommended as uneven adhesive application will telegraph through the felt.
- 7 Apply the felt to the surface and apply firm pressure using a weighted roller to smooth the surface, working from one (1) end to remove any air bubbles. Rolling the entire surface also ensures maximum bond of the adhesive and particular attention should be paid to seams. For butt seams to remain tight, adequate adhesion **MUST** occur at edges. Sufficient adhesive as well as adequately rolling the seams with a weighted roller is required to avoid open seams. Some installers find the double cut wallcovering method to work well for felt installations; however, this is dependent on the installer's experience and preferences.

Cleaning + Maintenance Instructions

Like any natural fiber, a minimal approach should always be taken to clean wool felt since the cleaning method could potentially do more harm than the soiling or stain. The cleaning approach should be (1) dust with a lint roller, (2) vacuum with a clean, soft brush, (3) clean with water and mild detergent, and (4) clean with chemical spot remover. **IMPORTANT:** Always test any cleaning method in an inconspicuous area before attempting general cleaning.

- 1 Wool has a low degree of dry soil pick-up compared with other fibers. However, to remove the accumulation of general airborne debris, wool felt may be cleaned with a standard masking tape lint roller. It is always a good idea to use the lint roller first in any area intended to be spot cleaned.
- 2 Once per year, it is recommended that the entire surface is given a light vacuum with a clean, soft horsehair upholstery brush. In a clean office environment, it may not be necessary to do this annually. Slight shedding of wool fibers is normal and not indicative of any defect. These loosened fibers are easily vacuumed away and will decrease over time.
- 3 If a wet spill should occur, blot up the liquid as soon as possible with a dry cloth to avoid absorption. Avoid aggressive rubbing as this can continue the felting process and change the surface appearance of the felt. For removal of minor stains, if the felt can be removed it is best to obtain the services of a professional dry cleaning company that is familiar with the special care of wool. If not possible, a mild enzyme-based detergent (such as Tide Free) is recommended. Create a dilute solution by adding three (3) parts water to one (1) part detergent in a clean container. Use a clean paper towel to gently blot the detergent into the stain. Press and release, press and release. Using a separate container of just clear water, use clean, moist paper towels to blot more water into the stain. Press and release, press and release. Finish by blotting firmly with clean, dry paper towels until the area is nearly dry.
- 4 There are many solvent-based spot removers available. Although they are not recommended except in the case of emergency, the best choices for wool felt are dry cleaning fluids. Be sure to test in an inconspicuous area first. Blot the stained area with a clean cloth soaked in dry cleaning fluid, then blot with a clean cloth until dry.

FilzFelt is a supplier of 100% Wool Design Felt and provides these instructions solely as recommendations. We are not responsible for the installation and/or fabrication of products using our felt and cannot guarantee finished results. Any felt wallcovering should be mocked-up and field-tested prior to installation and a professional wallcovering installer who has experience working with natural materials should be consulted. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in improper installation and/or installation failure and voids any warranty.