

Direct Glue Installation Instructions

The installation recommendations provided consist of common-sense practices for direct-glue 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 FilzFelt recommended installers, please contact Customer Service.

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, 5mm, 8mm or 10mm thick felts. Wool is naturally hydrophilic and can absorb up to one-third of its weight in water. Due to this inherent quality, we DO NOT advise the use of 2mm felt as the adhesive can absorb through and become visible on the surface.

Tools Needed

- 1 Adhesive appropriate to the substrate
- 2 Foam roller
- 3 Utility knife and blades
- 4 Metal straight edge
- 5 Weighted roller

It is recommended that you have access to warm soapy water in the event of getting adhesive on the front of the felt. Any adhesive must be removed with warm soapy water before the adhesive has dried. Cleaning instructions are included at the end of the installation process.

Adhesives + Mock-ups

Low water content universal textile, wallpaper, or clay-based adhesives are recommended. If unfamiliar with wool felt installation, a mock-up area is recommended to test adhesives and methods. Due to the 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. Please note that 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 100% 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 and piece selection to ensure that the "best side" will be visible. In the case of product defect or damage in transit, FilzFelt must be notified within five business days. Please note that FilzFelt cannot accept a return or warranty claim on any material that has been installed.
- 2 Allow felt to acclimate to the installation environment. After the shipping crates have been opened, the felt should be laid out individually on the floor for at least 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 Trim the felt as needed to provide plumb and straight edges. Please note that felt purchased by the yard will not be delivered with finished edges. The felt may be cut with a sharp utility knife (such as Olfa) and a metal straight edge. Thicker felts may require multiple passes to cut the material. Change blades often 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. Note: FilzFelt is able to offer pre-cut pieces and Customer Service can provide information on the cutting options.
- 5 Using a foam roller, coat the substrate with suitable adhesive. Allow to cure per the adhesive manufacturer's application instructions.
- 6 Apply the felt to the surface and use a weighted roller to smooth the surface, working from one 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 preference.

Cleaning Instructions

Like any natural fiber, a minimal approach should always be taken to clean wool felt since the cleaning method could potentially do more damage than the 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, (4) clean with chemical spot remover. **Always test any cleaning method first in an inconspicuous area.**

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. 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. Please note that 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.

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 parts water to one 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.

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.