

## **Products and Services**

- Merino-grade, sparkling white roving, top, and batts for felting, dyeing, spinning, and fiber art.
- Hand-dyed roving, batts, and top from merinograde Targhee wool. Rain water, environmentally compatible acid dyes, Ecos Free and Clear wash, food-grade citric acid, and the power of the prairie sun are all that's used in the dyeing process.
- Award-winning raw fleeces: coated fleeces from white and naturally-colored (silver, moorit, black, spotted) Targhees, Corriedales, and Merinos. Uncoated fleeces available from Ile de France and Clun Forest crossbreds.
- Designer yarns featuring Targhee/Merino (baby soft), Ile de France (springy and long-wearing),
   Corriedale (naturally colored) and Lincoln (silken and drapey) wools.
- Kits and commissioned items of wet felting, needlefelting, handspinning, or knitting: Everything from apparel to custom pet beds to fiber art.
- All natural, healthful, delicious, grass-fed or lightly grain-finished lamb available by the whole or half.
- Stewardship and conservation consultations.

## **About Us**

Prairie Shepherd is a woman-owned, homestead-based business producing fiber, food, and stewardship of Montana's prairies. Our beloved flock of fine and medium-wool sheep produce white and naturally-colored fleeces of outstanding softness and lively resilience.

Humane animal husbandry, caring stewardship of land and wildlife, commitment to our rural community, and excellent service to customers are the principles that guide our actions. Sustainably produced and locally marketed in Montana, the purchase of this product contributes to the vitality of family-based agriculture.

This wool was washed and carded at Thirteen Mile Wool Mill of Belgrade, Montana, another eco-friendly family farm and fiber business. Fleece was solar dyed by Prairie Shepherd using rain water, eco-friendly acid dyes, food-grade citric acid, and Ecos Free & Clear soap.

Sappo Hill Soap contains palm and coconut oils, water, sodium hydroxide, glycerin, natural vanilla fragrance with plant extracts and/or essential oils.

## Please visit us at prairieshepherd.com





You too can craft Montana wool into a felt "washcloth" containing fine soap!

Quick, colorful, and fun to make! Great for hostess gifts! A winner for crafting with kids!





Felted Soap Kit featuring:
0.5 oz. Montana wool roving
2 bars Sappo Hill brand soap
12" square tulle fabric
Complete instructions



## **Making Felted Soaps**

This kit contains materials to make two felted soaps. You may have enough extra roving to cover another small bar of soap you supply.

You'll need access to a sink or bucket of hot water. Rubber gloves are optional.

Begin by removing any paper wrapping on one bar of soap. If the soap is soft, 24 hours of air drying can help reduce foaming during the felting process.

Sort the fleece into two piles with color combinations you love. Set aside one of the piles and the other bar of soap.

Open the roving by stretching gently to the sides until it looks somewhat gauzy. Hold the soap in one hand, and with the other, wrap the roving around the soap. You can use the full width of the roving, or pull along its length to elongate and narrow the fiber.

Wrap the soap with several layers, striving to keep the fiber fairly even around the edges, corners, and center of the bar. The fiber should be about ¼ inch thick around the bar before it is wetted. Have fun with the color and pattern of the fibers, which can be removed and adjusted until you get a design that pleases you.

Loosely wrap the now-puffy soap bar in the tulle fabric provided. If you're using gloves, put them on now.

In a sink or bucket of hot water, submerge the tulle-wrapped soap. Gently squeeze in to flatten the fiber against the soap. As soon as the fiber is thoroughly saturated, lift the soap out of the water. Squeeze to force out excess water and suds, then begin to gently rub the soap in a motion like washing your hands.

Within 2-3 minutes the roving will enmesh and flatten, and look a bit like stained glass. Keep rubbing with more vigor until the fiber felts. Test this by pinching the fibers to verify they cling snugly together like fabric.

Carefully peel off the tulle, which may be partly captured in the felt. Set the tulle aside. Dip the soap one more time lightly in water and quickly repeat the rubbing and smoothing of the soap. Squeeze the felt against the bar to force out water, then shape by hand, Set to dry out of sunlight.

Want some embellishments? Use a medium needle-felting needle to impress 100% wool yarn or roving in your choice of designs. Then very lightly wet felt the soap (as per the instructions above) again to set the pattern.

The felted soap is used like regular hand soap, but will last up to three times longer. The felted cover acts like a gentle loofah, helping remove grime then leaving hands smooth and clean. Naturally resistant to bacteria and mold, the wool covering also reduces soap slime in your soap dish.

The felt will shrink as the soap is used. When the soap is finally used up, the remaining felt can be used as a:

- Sachet cover: Make a small opening in the felt, stuff with fragrant herbs, and sew shut.
- **Cat toy:** Stuff with wool and a sprig of catnip, sew shut, and attach a 3 foot piece of yarn as a handle.
- **Dryer ball:** Stuff tightly with 100% wool roving or yarn, sew shut, and toss in your dryer to naturally fluff and freshen clothes.
- Cleaning pad: Non-scratch cleaning for delicate surfaces. Just moisten the pad and dab on cleaning paste to polish stainless steel, fine china, or silver.



You'll enjoy making unique, colorful, wonderfully soft felted soaps using fleece from pampered Montana sheep. Merino-grade wool, processed and solar-dyed with ecofriendly methods, is ready to be crafted by you into one-of-a-kind soaps.

