

# Product Maintenance and Cleaning Guide

Natural materials are not demanding and generally require little care. However, gentle cleaners and a light cleaning approach will ensure that the natural beauty is not altered. Harsh cleaners should never be used. This product cleaning and maintenance care guide refers to the entire collection of FilzFelt products.



## 100% Wool Design Felt

Wool felt is one nifty natural material. This nonwoven textile has inherent characteristics that make it durable and low maintenance. While the wool fiber core can absorb up to a third of its dry weight in moisture, the surface has a waxy coating called Lanolin that repels liquids and provides natural stain resistance. Water droplets on the surface of wool will bead and roll off instead of being absorbed into the felt. This natural water-wicking property prevents moisture from being retained in the felt and naturally inhibits mildew. Wool also has natural anti-microbial properties because bacteria tend to be attracted to smooth, positively-charged surfaces like those of synthetic fibers rather than the scaly, neutrally-charged surface of the wool fiber. These natural characteristics allow time for liquid spills to be blotted away before permanent staining can occur.

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.



## Akustika 10 + Akustika 25

Vacuum occasionally to remove general air-borne debris. Should soiling occur, spot clean with a mild soap (such as Dawn) and lukewarm water solution.