

## FINISHING YOUR HANDKNIT, HANDWOVEN OR FELTED PROJECTS

Washing makes the yarn softer and more dense with a downy nap. The fibers blossom and feel more stable and durable. Even if you knit with our washed skeins, it's still a good idea to wash and block your finished project. The variables to control in fulling are moisture, heat, and friction in the presence of a gentle soap or detergent. It is a progressive process, so experiment with small swatches to see what happens. Experience is the best guide!

Wash handknit garments in somewhat soapy, warm water. (We use a squirt of Ivory dishwashing liquid or a gentle wool detergent like Woolite is fine.) Gently agitate the fabric all over for 3 or 4 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and lay out flat to dry. If you'd like your garment to be fuzzier or more dense, repeat this process using hotter water, the same amount of soap, and agitating it more this time. ***Just remember that you can always full the material more, but not less!***

It's usually best to wash handwoven fabric before you sew with it. It's always a good idea to weave an extra foot or two to experiment with. We wash our handwoven fabric in the washing machine using the warm setting and the regular cycle. **It's important to stand right by the machine, stopping it every 5 minutes or so and examining it carefully to make sure it's not getting agitated more in some places than in others.** You can also take the fabric out of the machine and readjust it, just to be sure. Once again, remember you can always wash it again if you want to fluff it up more, but you can't undo the fulling process!

Knitting or crocheting items such as hats or purses and then felting them in the washing machine also works beautifully, but monitor the process carefully!