

**How to felt a *Culex* mosquito:** Some mosquitoes in the genus *Culex* can transmit pathogens to humans and animals that cause disease. You can help protect your community by teaching people how to reduce mosquito breeding habitats and use personal repellents. Using felted mosquitoes as visual aids during presentations can be a fun tool to increase engagement. As an added benefit, creating them can also reduce stress.

Needling felting is a great way to express your creative side and reduce stress. Always be careful when felting to avoid hurting yourself. To start, find a comfortable location to sit and hard surface to use your materials.

**How to felt:** This how to guide assumes you already know how to felt. In short, special barbed felting needles are used to repeatedly jab pieces of wool. This process causes the wool to felt. Many resources are available on the internet if you search “how to needle felt.”

**Materials needed:**

- Felting needle
- 3 colors of wool (your choice)
- Felting mat
- Finger protection (optional)

**Timing:** 2-5 hours



**Step 1:** Find a piece of wool the color you want.



**Step 2:** For the abdomen, felt into a tube approx. 0.5" X 2.5" X 0.5".



**Step 3:** For the thorax, use a new color and make a ball approx. 1.0" X 1.5" X 0.5".



**Step 4:** Attach the thorax to the abdomen.

## How to felt a *Culex* mosquito



**Step 5:** Using a new color, create long, thin pieces of wool.



**Step 6:** Felt the strips of wool to make bands across the abdomen.



**Step 7:** Shape the wool strips so no frayed ends are seen.



**Step 8:** Do this for all bands on the abdomen.



**Step 9:** Use a long piece of wool to felt the underside of the abdomen.



**Step 10:** Split the remaining wool into two long groups and felt very thin legs.



**Step 11:** Create two more pairs of legs. Attach them to the abdomen.



**Step 12:** Felt a piece of wool to blend the legs into the thorax and abdomen.

## How to felt a *Culex* mosquito



**Step 13:** Use two small pieces of wool to create the head and mouthparts.



**Step 14:** Attach mouthparts (0.3" X 1.5" X 0.3") to the head (0.8" X 0.5" X 0.5").



**Step 15:** Attach the completed head to the abdomen.



**Step 16:** Felt two wings (3.5" L X 0.5" T). Taper the width from 0.5" to 1.5".



**Step 17:** Leave the ends of the wings unfelted.



**Step 18:** Attach the wings to the thorax.



**Step 19:** Attach two very thin strips of wool to the head for antennae.



**Step 20:** You are ready to use your felted mosquito during outreach.