

56.02 - Felt, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated.

5602.10 - Needleloom felt and stitch-bonded fibre fabrics

- Other felt, not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated :

5602.21 - - Of wool or fine animal hair

5602.29 - - Of other textile materials

5602.90 - Other

Felt is usually obtained by superimposing, one on the other, a number of layers of textile fibres (usually the laps as produced by carding or by air-laying); these are then moistened (generally with steam or hot soapy water) and subjected to heavy pressure and a rubbing or beating action. This causes the fibres to interlock and produces sheets of even thickness, much more compact and difficult to disintegrate than wadding, and quite distinct from felted woven fabrics (generally **Chapters 50 to 55**).

Felt is usually produced from wool or other animal hair, or from mixtures of these fibres with other natural fibres (e.g., vegetable fibres, horsehair) or with man-made fibres.

Felt is used in the manufacture of clothing, hats, shoes, shoe soles, piano hammers, furnishing articles, fancy articles, etc., for various technical uses, as heat or sound insulating materials, etc.

This heading also includes **needleloom felt** which is made either :

- (1) by punching a sheet or web of textile staple fibres (natural or man-made), without a textile fabric base, with notched needles; or
- (2) by needling such textile fibres through a base of textile fabric or other material which is finally more or less hidden by the fibres.

The needleloom technique makes it possible to obtain felt from non-felting vegetable fibres (for example, jute) or man-made fibres.

Needled webs of staple fibres in which the needling is complementary to other types of bonding and needled filament-based webs are regarded as nonwovens (**heading 56.03**).

This heading also covers those **stitch-bonded fabrics** the essential feature of which is that they consist of a web of textile fibres the cohesion of which has been enhanced by picking up fibres from the web itself, and not by means of textile yarns. The fibres are drawn by needles through the web, and form on the surface rows of chain stitches. Some of these fabrics may have a pile surface (whether or not cut) and may be reinforced by a ground of textile or other material. The stitch-bonding knitting process is described in the General Explanatory Note to Chapter 60.

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Except where it is covered more specifically by other headings in the Nomenclature, the heading includes felt in the piece or cut to length or simply cut to rectangular (including square) shape from larger pieces without other working (e.g., certain dusters or blankets), whether or not presented folded or put up in packings (e.g., for retail sale).

Felt may be dyed, printed, impregnated, coated, covered, laminated or reinforced (e.g., with textile threads, or wire). It may be covered on one or both surfaces with paper, cardboard, textile fabric, etc. (e.g., sewn or glued), **provided** the essential character of the product is that of felt.

However, the heading **does not cover** the following products which fall in **Chapter 39** or **40** :

- (a) Felt impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics or rubber, containing 50 % or less by weight of textile material, or felt completely embedded in plastics or rubber;
- (b) Plates, sheets or strip of cellular plastics or cellular rubber combined with felt, where the textile material is present merely for reinforcing purposes (see the General Explanatory Note to Chapter 39, part entitled “**Plastics and textile combinations**”, and Item (A) of the Explanatory Note to heading 40.08).

The heading includes **roofing felt** made by the normal felting process and subsequently impregnated with tar or similar substances.

The heading also **excludes** :

- (a) Felt, impregnated, coated or covered with substances or preparations (e.g., perfumes or cosmetics (**Chapter 33**), soaps or detergents (**heading 34.01**), polishes, creams or similar preparations (**heading 34.05**), fabric softeners (**heading 38.09**)) where the textile material is present merely as a carrying medium.
- (b) Saddle cloths and pads (**heading 42.01**).
- (c) Carpets and other floor coverings of felt of **Chapter 57**.
- (d) Tufted felt of **heading 58.02**.
- (e) Embroidered felt in the piece, in strips or in motifs (**heading 58.10**).
- (f) Quilted textile products in the piece, composed of one or more layers of textile materials assembled by stitching or otherwise with padding material **other than** embroidery of heading 58.10 (**heading 58.11**).
- (g) Floor coverings consisting of a coating or covering on a backing of felt, whether or not cut to shape (**heading 59.04**).
- (h) Felt coated, covered or laminated with rubber, leather or other material, of a kind used for card clothing, and other similar fabric of a kind used for other technical purposes, of **heading 59.11**.
- (i) Felt covered with abrasive powder or grain (**heading 68.05**) or with agglomerated or reconstituted mica (**heading 68.14**).
- (k) Building board made of several layers of textile fibres completely enveloped in asphalt or similar material (**heading 68.07**).
- (l) Metal foil on a backing of felt (**generally Section XIV or XV**).