

## **Angora Rabbit Fiber**

Spinning angora fiber is a wonderful way to develop yarn that is soft, warm and has a wonderful bloom or halo.

### **Spinning**

When you spin angora fiber it is best to use a semi-woolen method using a little extra twist. Angora fiber is wonderful for beginners who tend to treadle too quickly or over spin other fibers. Angora needs the extra twist to give it strength and prevent shedding.

### **Plying**

Angora yarn can be used as a single or plied. The yarn will soften as you ply but it will not develop its full bloom until it is knit or woven. Angora is perfect for blending with other fibers. I sometimes like to use one single of angora and ply it with another single of alpaca, wool or even cashmere.

### **Finishing**

**Finishing is the most important step when spinning with angora. The following process is called fulling and I feel it is essential to a high quality angora yarn.**

**You will need the following supplies: a squirt of liquid dish soap, sink or large bowl, a potato masher or sink plunger, cold water and a towel or salad spinner.**

- 1. Fill your bowl with very hot water, add a squirt of detergent and then add your tied skein of angora yarn.**
- 2. Use the potato masher or sink plunger to compress the skein over and over.**

- 3. dump out the hot water and fill the bowl with cold water.  
(Now is a good time to re-align the skein to prevent tangles)**
- 4. Fill up your bowl with hot water and compress it over and over until the water is clear of soap residue.**
- 5. Dump the hot and add cold water again to completely rinse the soap out of the skein. At this time I add a splash of white vinegar to help remove the soap. You will learn how much soap to use in the beginning based on how many times you have to rinse. :-)**
- 6. I do a final hot rinse and I usually add one or two drops of essential oil to the skein to mask out any vinegar scent.**
- 7. Use a towel or salad spinner to remove the excess water.**
- 8. Now it is time to whack the skein. Re-align the skein, hold one end of the skein and give the other end a hard whack against your counter top. Turn it around and give it another whack. This opens up the fibers and helps the yarn to develop it's bloom.**

**You will notice a nice bloom as the skein hangs to dry.**