



Cushions and Mattresses

Instructions for use

A guide to cushion selection

A good pressure relieving surface should:

- a) Distribute pressure over as wide area as possible
- b) Prevent tissue deformation
- c) Conform to the users shape
- d) Not bottom out

Posture

When selecting a cushion, it is very important to maintain as near as possible an angle of 90° at the hips and knees.

This position provides the largest surface area for the cushion to relieve pressure from. Great care should be taken to ensure the wheelchair/chair is set up according to the patient's need and that no undue pressure is placed on the sacral/ischial area or the front of the thighs.

The hammock effect caused by stretched seat canvasses can lead to:

- a) Chaffing at the knees.
- b) Sweat and heat build up

If a solid board is used to counteract the hammock effect, ensure it cannot slide off the side bars of the wheelchair, as this leads to pelvic obliquity.

Assessment

The following points should be addressed when choosing a cushion:

- a) Pressure distribution
- b) Posture
- c) Balance/stability
- d) Functional ability (transfer)
- e) Ease of handling
- f) Maintenance
- g) Comfort and style

It can be seen from the above that the provision of a cushion is only part of the formula to ensure the best pressure relief is attained.

IMPORTANT

Do not place any other cover on the product other than that supplied by the Manufacturer.

All products should be supplied at the recommendation of your therapist or physician.

If there is any doubt as to the suitability of the product refer immediately to your therapist, physician or the manufacturer.

How to fit the cushions and mattresses

Viscotech® Thin & Standard Cushions

Viscotech® Thin & Standard Cushions are fully reversible so can be used any side up. Please ensure that the cushion is the correct way round for both width and depth of seat, as having round the wrong way could potentially cause problems. To prolong the life of your cushion, we recommend that product is flipped over every month.

When taking off cover, unzip and carefully remove contents. The rear of the product will be identified on the foam (unless product is square) making it easier to refit cover.

Viscotech® Plus, Plus Contour & Supreme Gel Cushions

Viscotech® Plus, Contour Plus & Supreme Gel Cushions Have to be positioned the right way up and round. The cover clearly indicates which way the top and front of the product is. Please ensure that the cushion is the correct way round for both width and depth of seat.

When taking off cover, unzip and carefully remove contents. The rear and top of the product will be identified on the foam (unless product is square) making it easier to refit cover.

Viscotech® Supreme Mattress

This mattress should not be flipped or rotated in any way due the complex make-up of the mattress.

When taking off cover, unzip and carefully remove contents. The rear and top of the product will be identified on the foam making it easier to refit cover.

Viscotech® Supreme HD, Plus & Plus HD Mattresses

These mattresses can be rotated from head to foot, but should not be flipped over due to the construction of the mattress.

When taking off cover, unzip and carefully remove contents. The rear and top of the product will be identified on the foam making it easier to refit cover.

Viscotech® Standard Mattress range

This mattress can be flipped or rotated in any way ensuring greater longevity of the product.

When taking off cover, unzip and carefully remove contents. The cover can be refitted any way up or round.

Viscotech® Medium Base Mattress

This mattress should not be flipped in any way due to the complex make up of the cover however it can be rotated.

The mattress insert itself can be used anyway up or round but the cover can only be used one way up.

Infection Control/Cleaning

If waterproof covers become contaminated, then a variety of chemical disinfectants can be used for surface decontamination in line with local infection control policies.

However we do not recommend the use of Phenols (e.g. Hycolin, Stericol) as they tend to make the PU coating of the fabric rather brittle.

Chlorine releasing agents are the most commonly used chemical disinfectants following recommendations made by the Microbiology Advisory Group to the DOH in 1991 and ACDP guidance November 1995.

Waterproof covers can withstand wiping with a strength of 1,000 ppm Sodium Hypochlorite or Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC).

Chemical contact with the fabric should be maintained for 2-5 minutes, followed by a final wiping with water and detergent after washing

The covers can be laundered to all temperatures specified in HSG (95) 18.

Handling Instructions

The cushion or mattress should be handled carefully to prevent tears or damage. If the cushion or mattress becomes contaminated then it should be replaced and disposed of in line with the disposal instructions. Care should be taken when inserting foam into the cover after washing.

Restrictions of Use

Should only be used in combination with a seat surface of similar dimensions and should not be modified or changed in any way.

Storage Conditions

No special storage instructions, except the cushion or mattress should be held in a dry (moisture free) and clean environment.

Disposal

Contaminated foam and covers should be disposed of ethically in line with statutory requirements for the disposal of clinical waste.

Health and Safety

This cushion or mattress does not pose any serious Health and Safety risks if used correctly and in line with the User Instructions. Torn or damaged foam could pose a problem due to ingress if not removed or disposed of correctly.

SUMED may refuse to service unacceptably soiled cushions or mattresses.

Flammability

Ignitability test (cushions) to BS5852:Schedule 1, Part 1: The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (Amended 1989, 1993).

Ignitability test (mattresses) to BS7177:1996 Medium Hazard Category

Product Education/Support Services

We have a team of fully trained product specialists who are available for:-

Assessments
In-service training
Demonstrations
Advisory service

If you require a visit, please do not hesitate to contact the SUMED sales department on 01457 890980.

Returns

Returning your Viscotech® product.

During the life of a Viscotech® product, it may be necessary to return it to us for repair or service. At SUMED we appreciate how important it is that you should not be without it for any length of time - we therefore give below some helpful guidelines to avoid unnecessary delay.

1. Return your Viscotech® cushion or mattress in its original packaging
2. Please label the box with your name, address and telephone number as well as the delivery address:

SUMED International (UK) Ltd
Integrity House
Units 1-2 Graphite Way
Hadfield, Glossop
Derbyshire SK13 1QH

3. It is always helpful if you can enclose a covering letter, giving your name, address, telephone number and any details relating to the reason for return of the cushion or mattress.

4. Please ensure that the returned goods are in a clean condition

They should be labelled as "decontaminated". Cleaning instructions are issued with all Viscotech® products, but should further information be required, please telephone our Free Advisory Service on 01457 890980



Contains Vasco™ and Reflex™ foam supplied by Vitafoam Ltd.

SUMED®

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Integrity House
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Hadfield, Glossop
Derbyshire SK13 1QH
Telephone 01457 890980
Fax 01457 890990
sales@sumed.co.uk
www.sumed.co.uk