



harvest[®] healthcare
Relieving the Pressure

A GUIDE TO CORRECT STATIC MATTRESS USE

Harvest Healthcare Ltd recommends that mattresses should be used and maintained in accordance with the following:

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Check whether the mattress is a replacement or an overlay.

- If it is a replacement mattress it should be placed directly on to the bed frame
- If it is a mattress overlay it should be placed on top of the existing mattress.

Check that the safe working load of the mattress is suitable for the intended user. **Do not exceed the safe working load of the mattress.**

Ensure that the Risk Factor is suitable for the intended user. **To help prevent pressure damage it is important that patients reposition themselves, or are repositioned regularly.**

Mattresses are delivered in plastic covers for protection; these covers must be removed before use.

With the exception of bed sheets avoid using any additional covers/padding between the patient and the support surface, as this may affect its pressure reducing qualities.

2. MATTRESS DAMAGE PREVENTION

General Use

Take care not to puncture the cover as this will allow fluid ingress to contaminate the foam core. To prevent the cover from being punctured and/or damaged:-

Do not place sharp objects such as hypodermic needles, scalpels, etc, on the mattress,
Avoid wearing large jewellery items i.e. rings with large stones.

Take extra care when using medical equipment such as monitors, drip stands, side rails, transfer boards, etc.

Moving, Handling and Storage

Where possible, mattresses should be stacked flat and transported on a bed base. Mattresses should be handled by two people, one at either end of the mattress. **Do not drag or pull mattresses by the cover.**

3. MATTRESS CLEANING AND CARE

Mattresses are fully encased in a protective waterproof, multi-stretch PU cover to prevent fluid ingress from damaging the foam core. **The mattress cover should be cleaned regularly in accordance with your organisations' disinfection protocol.**

Further information is available from Harvest Healthcare Ltd on request.

4. MATTRESS INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mattresses should be checked regularly to ensure they remain 'fit for purpose', clinically effective and pose no risk of infection to either the patient or the carer.

Harvest Healthcare Ltd recommend that a thorough inspection of both the interior (foamcore) and exterior (cover) of the mattress is carried out weekly, or each time a new patient is placed on the mattress. Visual checks should be carried out daily to identify any significant signs of damage or infection risk.

If any signs of contamination are identified on the cover, the mattress should be withdrawn from use immediately and the cover replaced. If the foam and/or the cover are showing signs of contamination or excessive wear the mattress should be removed from use immediately and the entire mattress replaced.

5. DANGERS

Facial contact with any cover material such as that used on this product can cause suffocation and a Risk Assessment should be done prior to the use of this product.

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