

PRESSURE MANAGEMENT IN SEATING MATTERS CHAIRS



The experienced clinical team at Seating Matters take pressure management very seriously and much consideration is given to the quality of pressure management in our chairs.

The Seating Matters cushion is made up of two distinct layers;

- **First Layer:** 2 inches of memory foam to allow immersion and envelopment of the Ischial Tuberosities (IT's) into the cushion, this immersion gives stability and reduces shear and friction.
- **Second Layer:** A dense foam which provides stability to the memory foam to prevent bottoming out.

The cushion is then covered by Dartex material which will fit the contours of both the cushion and body giving the required level of support. Dartex fabrics also offer great stretch recovery which will help prevent sagging and will therefore provide a more comfortable and effective support surface for longer.



With the Dartex cover, the cushion offers a degree of moisture vapour permeability to ensure that the cushion remains dry and comfortable. Any surface next to the skin can interfere with its natural temperature and moisture control can also aggravate the risk to the patient. This is avoided whilst using Dartex. The cushion will give sufficient anti-slip, as excess surface friction can add to the risk of developing a pressure injury.

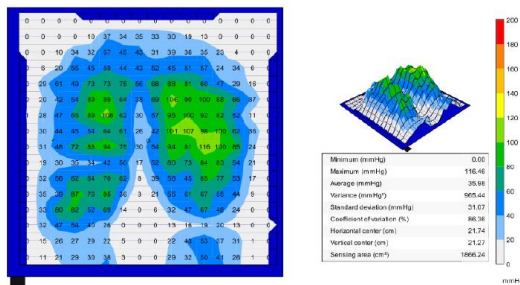
All seating surfaces should allow for immersion as the IT's naturally immerse two inches into a surface when seated. Some support surfaces prevent immersion by having a very taut surface or having additional material between the client and the cushion. We recommend placing the client directly on the cushion to reduce the risk of shear and friction and to encourage immersion.

All Seating Matters chairs come as standard with a removable cushion and baseboard. This facilitates the use of any other cushion which may be prescribed by the clinician.

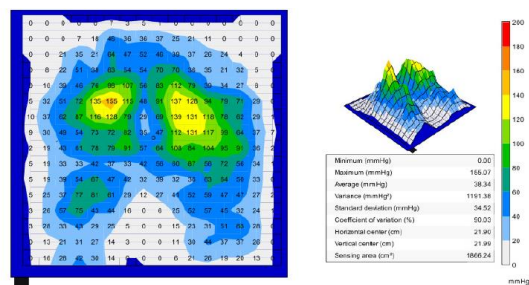
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See below pressure mapping image obtained following an independent trial of the Seating Matters cushion.

Seating Matters Cushion



Commonly Used Cushion



Following our research with Ulster University it was evident that pressure management was not only about the cushion. The use of tilt in space is vital to achieve maximum pressure redistribution. The Seating Matters chairs are the only chairs with 45° tilt option which is the optimum position to off load the IT's and redistribute pressure.

This memory foam and Dartex combination give a **medium to high** pressure redistribution, however in order to achieve maximum pressure management in a chair The Four Principals of Pressure Management in Seating are recommended. By using these principals, **high or maximum** pressure redistribution can be achieved:

1. Load the Body.
2. Provide Postural Support.
3. Effective Repositioning (Every two hours).
4. Use an Appropriate Surface.

Further Reading

When assessing for pressure risk many factors must be considered before a decision can be made on the level of pressure management a client requires. It is a mistake to assume that the cushion is the only factor which must be addressed. Some of these considerations are;

- Does the client have a current pressure injury?

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- Does the client have a history of a pressure injury?
- Medical condition of client.
- Can the client do an independent weight shift?
- Position of the client in the chair and their posture.
- Transfer method of the client from chair.
- The adjustability of the chair to meet individual need.
- The number of times the client is repositioned throughout the day.
- Length of time the client sits in the chair.
- Nutritional intake of the client.
- Always check the mattress and ensure it meets the client's pressure management needs.

We recommend that you are familiar with the NICE guidelines on pressure management (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) September 2005. In these guidelines it is recommended that a client needs to be repositioned every 2 hours no matter what level of pressure management they are using. There is no substitute for repositioning the client regularly and this is the recommendation from Seating Matters.

We also strongly recommend that the decision on the type of pressure management used is made by a clinician with an expertise in this area and/or with an in depth knowledge of the clients' needs.

As a provider of clinical equipment it is our responsibility to give accurate information on the product you are providing and to educate the purchaser, carer or user on the correct use of this equipment and the benefits of it. It is then the clinician's decision to decide what is appropriate for their client.

Seating Matters provide continual training on various aspects of chair selection and seating assessments, including Educational Workshops. These clinical workshops are designed to achieve best clinical practice whilst implementing groundbreaking research to improve patient care. These workshops are highly recommended by clinicians worldwide. To schedule training for your team, get in touch at www.seatingmatters.com.

For further enquiries, please contact our clinical team at clinical@seatingmatters.com.