



# Cushions & Mattresses

## Instructions for Use

### Product Description

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All Viscotech® Products are developed and manufactured in conjunction with Vitacare - specialist medical division of Vitafoam, the UK's market leader in cellular polymer technology. Viscotech® uses the very latest foam and visco-elastic technology, supported by comprehensive clinical evidence, to ensure maximum immersion without the risk of bottoming out.

A full range of pressure relieving cushions and mattresses to suit all budgets and risk levels are available. Manufactured to the highest standards, Viscotech products all comply with the latest British Standard fatigue classification (BS3379) ensuring longevity in use.

### A guide to cushion selection

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A good pressure relieving surface should:

- a) Distribute pressure over as wide area as possible
- b) Prevent tissue deformation
- c) Conform to the user's 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**

### Handling Instructions & Intended Use

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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 cover after washing.

#### 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.

**Intended use:** Suitable for At Risk<sup>1</sup> clients. **Not** suitable for High Risk and above. Max. user weight 17 stone (108 kg)

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<sup>1,2,3</sup> These terms are referenced in the *Cushion Wallchart* supplied on the Sumed website ([www.sumed.co.uk](http://www.sumed.co.uk))

#### Viscotech® Plus, Plus Contour & Supreme Gel Cushions

Viscotech® Plus, Contour Plus & Supreme Gel Cushions Have to be positioned the right way up. 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, as having round the wrong way could potentially cause problems.

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.

**Intended use:** Suitable for High Risk<sup>1</sup> clients. The Supreme Gel cushion is suitable for Very High Risk, the other cushions are **not** suitable for Very High Risk and above. Max. user weight 28 stone (178 kg).

#### 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.

**Intended use:** Suitable for Very High Risk<sup>2</sup> clients. **Not** suitable for grade 1 and above. Max. user weight 22 stone (140 kg).

#### 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.

**Intended use:** Suitable for High Risk<sup>3</sup> clients. **Not** suitable for Very High Risk and above. Max. user weight 22 stone (140 kg).

### **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.

**Intended use:** Suitable for At Risk<sup>1</sup> clients. **Not** suitable for High Risk and above. Max. user weight 22 stone (140 kg).

### **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 any way up or round, but the cover can only be used one way up.

**Intended use:** Suitable for High Risk. **Not** suitable for Very High Risk and above. Max. user weight 17 stone (108 kg).

## **Infection Control/Cleaning**

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All Sumed® cushion covers can be washed at hospital laundry temperatures as specified in HSG (95) 18.

Slight wrinkling of the polyurethane cover may occur but there will be no adverse effects on the fire retardant properties of the fabric.

If the cover becomes contaminated a variety of chemical disinfectants can be used in accordance with local infection control guidelines. The use of phenols is NOT recommended as they can make the PU coating of the fabric brittle. Superficial dirt on the coating may be removed by wiping with a soft cloth moistened with water containing a neutral detergent. More persistent

contamination may be treated by wiping with alcohols or turpentine substitute, followed by hot water and detergent.

Routine cleaning and disinfection in situ may be carried out on the coating with hand hot water and a neutral detergent or with a sodium hypochlorite solution (0.1% or 1000 parts per million available chlorine). The material is compatible with the 10,000ppm available chlorine in solution required for the decontamination of blood spills. After the 2 minute required dwell, excess solution must be removed and the surface thoroughly rinsed and dried prior to reuse or storage. Proprietary disinfectants may be used provided manufacturer's instructions are followed.

All cleaning agents, and disinfectants, must be thoroughly rinsed off and the item dried before storage. Failure to do this may result in the accumulation of reagent that could damage the polyurethane coating, react with the bed frame, or negate the biocompatibility results of the Dartex® fabric.

Coated products on undyed textiles may be washed at temperatures up to 95°C (203°F), those on dyed textiles may be washed at temperatures up to 71° C (160°F), using normal detergents.

Leave to dry thoroughly before placing the cover back on.

## **Restrictions of Use**

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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**

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

## Disposal Regulations

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

## Health and Safety

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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

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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

## Returning your Viscotech® product

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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.

## Product education/support services

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

### Assessments

#### In-service training

**Demonstrations** (free of charge)

**Advisory service** (free of charge)

If you require a visit, please do not hesitate to contact the Sumed sales department at:

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

Telephone: 01457 890980

Fax: 01457 890990

E-mail: [sales@sumed.co.uk](mailto:sales@sumed.co.uk)

Website: [www.sumed.co.uk](http://www.sumed.co.uk)