

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Made Rite Bedding has served as trusted advisors to the healthcare industry since 1946. Feel free to call us anytime with your questions. Whether on maintenance, service or purchases. Whether your questions are about our mattresses or others. Whether you're our customer or not. We're always willing to help healthcare professionals get back to their "original" job of providing healthcare!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the **Made Rite Bedding**
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"For the Healthcare Professional."

Top 10
Considerations
When purchasing
Your Mattresses "



FOR THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TEN ISSUES TO CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING HEALTHCARE MATTRESSES

THE “INSIDE STORY” – You can’t judge a book by its cover. The same goes for mattresses. There are basically two types of insides: foam and innerspring. Foam mattresses are composed of two elements – the foam core and the ticking or cover. Innerspring mattresses are more complex. They consist of springs (of course), a fiber pad over the springs to prevent “pocketing” of materials inside the mattress, layers of cotton batting, and foam toppers of varying densities just under the ticking.

THE COVERING – Due to the very nature of healthcare, the mattresses must be covered in a manner that is waterproof, anti-bacterial and stain resistant. Vinyl serves these purposes, but it can be uncomfortably hot for the patient. Vinyl is also subject to cracking and splitting if not maintained properly. There are newer vinyls, nylons and urethane coated fabrics available today that are softer, cooler and not subject to cracking or splitting.

IS IT COMFORTABLE? – Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, comfort is an individual judgment. Goldilocks finally found the bed that was “juuuust right.” Not too firm, not too soft, you know the story. In healthcare settings, no one has defined exactly what is “juuuust right.” It is fair to say that most patients seem to prefer mattresses that allow their skin to breathe; and ones that aren’t at either extreme of the hard to soft spectrum.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? – Here again, it depends. Weight is the element that breaks down the substance of a mattress. Obviously, football players will wear out a mattress faster than ten-year olds. The quality levels of the foam density, spring coil resistance, batting density and ticking strength, along with proper maintenance, determine how long the mattress will last.

FIRE SAFETY – Essentially all mattresses manufactured since the early 1970s meet Federal Flammability Standard D.O.C. FF4-72 (16 CFR Part 1632). This means a burning cigarette left on the mattress will not set it on fire. However, healthcare facilities must use mattresses that conform to California Technical Bulletin #117, which means the components of the mattress won’t serve as a source of fire. Nursing homes that are not protected by approved, automatic sprinkler systems are required by State Fire Marshals to comply with California TB #129, and JCAHO accreditation is dependent on explicit compliance of your mattresses with the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

HOW DO I SELECT THE PROPER FIT FOR OUR BEDS? – Many nursing homes use multiple bed sizes in their facilities rather than one standard size throughout. Specialty units may have different bed sizes than general units. So your mattress size requirements may vary and can’t be reduced to a “one-size fits all” category. In addition, new FDA guidelines address the dangers of medical bed entrapment and facilities must bring their equipment, including mattresses, into compliance. Your new mattresses must be able to fit correctly in length and width to eliminate the majority of gaps that plague many bed systems.

WHAT’S REQUIRED FOR MATTRESS MAINTENANCE? – This is an easy one that far too many nursing homes ignore. Just as you rotate the tires on your car (...you DO rotate your tires don’t you?) the mattress needs to be flipped on occasion. If you’re only using one side of the mattress, you’re only using 50% of it! Harsh cleaning chemicals that are not diluted properly can weaken the coverings and lead to splitting. Check the label on your cleaning solutions and mix according to directions. Enough to do the cleaning without “killing” the covering!

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I REPLACE MATTRESSES? – You want to conserve your dollars and invest them wisely. It is impossible to set an exact schedule, but generally speaking, nursing homes equipped with “good” mattresses typically need to replace about 30% of them per year; those equipped with “better” mattresses typically need to replace about 20% per year; those who have selected the “best” mattresses typically need to replace only about 10% of them per year. Quality doesn’t “cost” – it pays!

PREVENTING PRESSURE ULCERS – Choosing the proper sleep surface for a low-or no-mobility resident who is experiencing or at risk of pressure ulcers has become complicated in today’s healthcare environment. While expensive, high-maintenance products such as low air loss and alternating pressure systems are available, a pressure reducing foam mattress is a key component of a pressure ulcer management program. This type of support surface is designed to optimize weight distribution and thereby reduce areas of high pressure and improve patient comfort. A good foam mattress reduces the chance of ulcer formation by redistributing pressure more evenly and by reducing shearing forces on susceptible areas of the skin. Visco-Elastic foam, also known as “Memory Foam”, is often recommended due to its inherent ability to soften under sustained pressure and exposure to body warmth. With the release or shifting of weight, “Memory Foam” constantly and gradually readjusts, enveloping and fully supporting the patient’s body. Less heat build-up, greater circulation and its body-molding effect make Visco-Elastic foam a superior choice for pressure management.

WHEN MAY I EXPECT DELIVERY? – Discuss this with your vendors. Ask for references of satisfied customers and then call them and ask if their mattresses were delivered as promised? For most standard items, it is not unreasonable to expect them to be shipped within 24-48 hours of placing the order. Plan on placing your order in a timely fashion and expect delivery in a timely manner. If it’s an emergency situation (such as an edict from a health inspector to shut down the operation) expect emergency service overnight if you are a dedicated, loyal customer.

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