



HOW DO I CHOOSE A Wheelchair Cushion THAT IS RIGHT FOR ME?

When working with your healthcare professional to select the right cushion, you should consider...
What is happening at the interface between your buttocks and the cushion?

Pressure, friction, temperature and humidity between the cushion and your buttocks can influence your comfort, stability and pressure ulcer risk. These factors can be assessed through standardized performance measures.

Using the following performance measures, you can compare cushions and make an informed decision about which cushion best meets your individual needs:

PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION



Cushion's ability to distribute pressure or offload to avoid high pressure points which can be damaging to tissue.

IMMERSION



Cushion's ability to promote sinkage of your buttocks into the cushion. More immersion generally results in better pressure distribution.

ENVELOPMENT



Cushion's ability to fully conform to the contours of your buttocks. More envelopment generally results in better pressure distribution.

STABILITY



Cushion's ability to support your buttocks and help you maintain balance as you lean or reach.

MOISTURE REGULATION



Cushion's ability to absorb moisture and resist sweat build-up.

TEMPERATURE REGULATION



Cushion's ability to transfer and disperse heat away from your body.

FLAMMABILITY



Cushion's ability to resist ignition or prevent catching on fire.

DURABILITY



Cushion's ability to withstand wear and tear with use without changing performance.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF MY WHEELCHAIR CUSHION?

START WITH CUSHION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Test specifications describing procedures to measure cushion performance using quantifiable, reliable performance metrics

Where can I find testing results for my cushion?

- Results are generally not publicly available. Manufacturers should be contacted for this information.

Who performs these standardized tests?

- Tests are performed by manufacturers and independent testing facilities

How do I benefit from implementing cushion performance standards, if I am a...



WHEELCHAIR USER

Wheelchair users can use standardized performance measures to ask relevant questions about which cushion best meets their individual needs



MANUFACTURER

Cushion manufacturers can use standardized cushion performance methods for internal verification testing and to create quantifiable data to back up marketing claims, setting themselves apart from competitors



HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Healthcare providers can use standardized performance measures as a way to compare products on the market, make informed decisions and provide their clients with a cushion that most closely meets their needs



POLICY MAKER

Policy makers can adopt standardized testing with pass/fail criteria for device regulation and reimbursement

Where can I learn more about the existing cushion standards?

- RESNA Standards Committee on Wheelchair Seating
 - <https://www.resna.org/AT-Standards/Wheelchair-and-Related-Seating-WRS>
- International Organization for Standardization Committee
 - <https://www.iso.org/committee/53792.html>