

## ROHO FAQs

You've landed on the ROHO FAQ. These are a few of the questions that we frequently answer. If you have more questions about your ROHO cushion or mattress, please contact us on 1300 845 483 or [orders.au@permobil.com](mailto:orders.au@permobil.com).

### **Which ROHO cushion is best for those individuals who sit for prolonged periods, who may require pain relief, and who wish to decrease the risk of developing a pressure injury?**

The 4.25 inch air cells of our HIGH PROFILE® line of products; the [ROHO® HIGH PROFILE® Single Compartment](#), ROHO HIGH PROFILE Dual Compartment, and [ROHO QUADTRO SELECT® HIGH PROFILE](#) cushions offer the most immersion and envelopment. This ability to sink into the cushion helps maintain the shape of the body and distributes weight across the greatest area – across your thighs, hips (trochanters) and buttocks (ischial tuberosities).

This will decrease peak pressures, improve comfort, reduce the risk of pressure injuries, and may decrease pain. It also minimises tissue deformation, which is now known to be the primary cause of deep tissue injury.

While the cushion environment can help to reduce external and some internal tissue risk factors, it is important to assess other risk factors including, but not limited to, nutrition, circulation and a history of pressure injuries. No cushion is able to effectively prevent or heal all pressure injuries in all patients, especially due to the individual, intrinsic risks of each person.

### **Can I place an incontinence pad, towel, draw sheet or sling over a ROHO® cushion or mattress?**

Anything you place over a ROHO cushion or [mattress](#) — or any cushion or mattress — can interfere with its effectiveness. ROHO cushions and mattresses increase the contact area through immersion and envelopment when you sink into them, redistributing the weight so there are limited peak pressures. When anything is placed between you and the cushion or mattress, surface tension is increased and you will have a more difficult time effectively sinking into the cushion or mattress, or you may create a high-pressure point from the pad, towel, etc.

We also realise that your individual needs, like incontinence, safety during transfers, etc. need to be considered. A registered healthcare professional should weigh the risks of placing a pad, towel or sling versus the risk of not employing these items.

If a pad, towel or draw sheet is required, we recommend that you use the fewest layers possible. Pads or sheets should lay very loose over the cushion or mattress, not tight.

If removing a lift sling is going to increase shear and friction, which may be detrimental to skin, a registered healthcare professional should weigh the risks of keeping the sling in place versus removing it.

### Can I use my ROHO cushion without a cover?

It's true that anything that you place over a ROHO cushion — or any cushion — can interfere with its effectiveness. ROHO cushions work by increasing the contact area through immersion and envelopment when you sink into the product, redistributing weight so there are limited peak pressures. Anything placed between you and the cushion, even a ROHO cover, can limit that immersion and envelopment by increasing surface tension and makes it more difficult to effectively sink into the cushion.

ROHO has gone to great lengths to provide covers that allow immersion with the least amount of surface tension created. From a *scientific* standpoint, ROHO cushion inventor Robert Graebe would recommend a ROHO cushion be used *without* the cover, with the exception of Air/Foam combination cushions.

However, our covers are made so that there is little, if any, interference with pressure distribution, immersion and envelopment. When other products are used instead of ROHO provided covers, surface tension increases and the cushion may be less effective.

Bottom line: Can a ROHO cushion be used without a cover? **All Air/Foam combination cushions must be used with their ROHO cover. All other cushions may be used without the supplied cover**, especially if there is no risk that the cells will be caught in something.

### Should the cushion be used with something other than ROHO covers?

In short, No. ROHO cushions are designed and tested to work in combination with ROHO cushion covers.

### How can I choose the right cushion?

Seek advice from a clinical professional who can assess your requirements. In many countries, occupational and physiotherapists have the expertise to help. Your personal physician can advise you and offer referrals.

### How often should DRY FLOATATION® cushions be checked for proper inflation?

The hand check should be performed daily with your activities of daily living — it only takes a few seconds. The entire adjustment procedure only needs to be done when necessary, typically every 3-4 months.

### **If I have pressure injuries, can I sit on my DRY FLOATATION cushion?**

Yes, DRY FLOATATION cushions and mattresses are designed to both prevent and assist in the healing process of pressure injuries. If you have a Stage 1, 2 or 3 injury, you can sit directly on a DRY FLOATATION cushion, provided you (or a caregiver) frequently monitor the wound. Always discuss your care with a Registered Healthcare Professional.

Our DRY FLOATATION products have a unique ability to redistribute pressure, minimise the tissue deformations that cause deep tissue injury, sustain blood flow, and potentially decrease oedema, which may assist with the healing process.

### **I need a very stable cushion. Which one should I choose?**

Several of our cushions offer positioning and stability, including the [QUADTRO SELECT®](#), [CONTOUR SELECT®](#), [Hybrid Elite®](#), and [Hybrid Select](#). A Registered Healthcare Professional trained in seating can help you choose the appropriate model for your needs.

### **Can I get literature on the ROHO® product line?**

Of course. To receive brochures and literature in Australia, please call 1300 845 483 or send an email to [info.au@permobil.com](mailto:info.au@permobil.com).

### **How long does a DRY FLOATATION cushion last?**

On average, three to five years, but we're also aware of cushions that have been actively used for over 25 years! It's no surprise that wear and tear affect the life of the cushion; using the cover supplied with your cushion will extend its life.

Also, each product comes with a Repair Kit and has a limited warranty. More information about the limited warranty can be found in the Operation Manual or by contacting us on 1300 845 483 or [orders.au@permobil.com](mailto:orders.au@permobil.com).

### **What makes ROHO DRY FLOATATION cushions better than other cushions?**

- Immersion and Envelopment to prevent tissue deformation.
- Adjustable to your unique body type, now, and as you change through the years.

- Adaptability to the shifts and movements you make as you go through your day.
- Reduction of shear and friction.
- Durability and consistent performance over the life of the cushion.
- Proven efficacy from over 90 clinical and scientific studies.
- Success stories for over 40 years.

### What are the best practices when using and caring for my cushion?

#### Do:

- Follow the adjustment, as well as cleaning and disinfection instructions.
- Contact your Registered Healthcare Professional, your dealer and/or Permobil Australia with any questions or issues.

#### Don't:

- Pull or attempt to carry the cushion by the cells, inflation valve, quick disconnect or ISOFLO Memory Control®. Use the Yellow Rope, cushion base, or carrying handle on the cover to safely transport the cushion.
- Expose neoprene cushions to petroleum-based solutions, like lanolin, as they may degrade the material.
- Sit on the cushion with sharp objects in your pockets.
- Expose the product to high heat, open flames, or hot ashes.
- Modify the cushion or any of the components. Doing so may damage the product and void the warranty. Using a different cover or repair kit, not provided by ROHO, Inc., may also void the warranty.

### What is the weight limit for my cushion?

The cushions are only limited by size, which is why it is imperative that you receive the proper size for your stature and chair. As long as the cushion is sized correctly for the individual, there is no weight limit. Consult your Registered Healthcare Professional for sizing help. [Custom cushions](#) are also available. Other cushions have their weight limits listed in their Operation Manual.

### Do you offer custom cushions? How do I order one?

We do! Advice from a rehab specialist is most helpful in designing a custom cushion. Our orders team is also available to help you with custom orders. Call us on 1300 845 483 or email [orders.au@permobil.com](mailto:orders.au@permobil.com).

### Do I need a rigid base under my cushion, or is a sling seat okay?

We recommend most of our seating products be used with a solid seat insert unless the wheelchair sling is designed to not sag or hammock over time. We offer two types of solid inserts, which can be placed between the cushion and its cover for convenient transportation. Refer to your cushion Operation Manual for further information about the use of solid inserts and any associated risks.

### Can I tie down cells to create a no-pressure area?

Unless medically necessary, we recommend cells are **not** tied down. The cushions perform best when pressure is distributed over all of the contact area. Creating a no-contact area also creates a high-pressure perimeter around the no-contact area. This pressure variance tends to cause shear, deformity and trauma to the tissue, increasing the risk of ischemia.

It's also possible interstitial fluids oedema will pool at the no-contact area, reducing efficient cellular nutrient transfer. Enhancing blood flow and nutrient transfer are essential, and DRY FLOATATION cushions allow this healing process to occur. If you tie down cells, you run the risk of delaying healing or increasing the size of a wound.

### Should I worry about cushion toxicity?

When people ask or talk about latex toxicity, what they're really talking about is a severe allergic reaction to proteins found in natural rubber. Natural rubber comes from the sap (a white, milky fluid) of the *Hevea brasiliensis*, or rubber tree. The proteins are Mother Nature's way of keeping the sap from coagulating as it carries moisture and nutrients from the roots to leaves and back.

All products made from natural rubber contain some amount of these proteins. The amount depends on how the latex was processed and how well the products were leached and washed. Almost everyone has some kind of reaction to these proteins. Depending on the frequency and duration of exposure, the reaction can be anything from a mild dermatological rash to anaphylactic shock.

ROHO products are manufactured from man-made materials. Our DRY FLOATATION cushions are made of neoprene, a synthetic rubber material that contains no natural rubber proteins. Our covers are made from a variety of materials. Please refer to the cover care label for this information. Our pumps are made of polypropylene.

A very small percentage of the population will have a reaction to contact with our cushions. People develop hypersensitivity to all sorts of things: Some develop hives and severe itching when they come into contact with wool clothing. Others develop reactions to certain detergents, soaps or citrus fruits.

The cushion is made from a chemical polymer and contains other chemicals used to produce a cure and render it resistant to UV light, effects of ozone, etc. Due to this, a few individuals will have a dermatological allergy reaction to our product. This can be a serious problem, but it should not be confused with the protein toxicity associated with natural rubber.