

Your CareFlex Guide to Specialist Seating

Posture Management and Stability

In everyday life, most people make postural changes instinctively, but when a person's abilities are reduced or compromised by illness or disability, we need to pay closer attention to how their seating can maintain comfort, stability and functionality. With the right seating choice, a bedridden person can re-join their friends and family in daily life. Their quality of life can be improved immeasurably.

At CareFlex we understand that balancing comfort, pressure management, posture control and independence is not easy, especially when trying to predict future requirements.

That is why our chairs are made to order, following a free assessment, to make sure the user has the right chair for their needs. By adding accessories, you can create even more sophisticated and fully adaptable seating systems.

To promote a good sitting posture, a chair should:

- Support the maximum surface area of the body
- Provide maximum stability and a well-balanced position
- Prevent or reduce the occurrence of undesirable postural changes
- Maximise functional ability
- Increase comfort
- Assist energy management
- Assist frequent repositioning
- Enhance the ability to transfer independently or with assistance



Maximum Comfort

Our chairs are manufactured from top quality materials that provide continued high levels of comfort throughout the life cycle of the product.

- Our contract grade foams and upholstery materials prevent contact surfaces from becoming tired and overly compressed.
- The fabric covering on contact surfaces has been selected to ensure that the properties of the pressure relief materials built into the chair perform at their best
- Wicking materials used on the seat and back, help to manage water vapour, keeping the user dry and comfortable

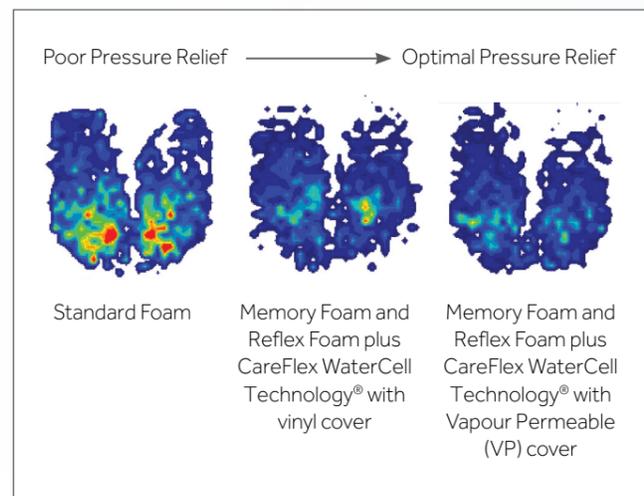
Pressure Relief

Skin and soft tissue damage caused by pressure happens when soft tissues are compressed to the point where circulation stops, or when bonds between different layers of soft tissue are stressed or damaged through shearing forces. If someone sits in one position for too long or their position is unstable, this damage is likely to occur.

Sitting for long periods in an asymmetrical and unsupported position can lead to skin and soft tissue damage often resulting in pressure ulcers, ranging from a slight discolouration of the skin to serious, deep wounds that may leave many tissue layers exposed. This process of skin breakdown can be made worse by other factors such as incontinence, immobility, sensory impairment and age.

Pressure ulcers often develop on the buttocks, sacrum, hips, heels, spine, and around the head. The result will be pain and anguish, often in patients already suffering from chronic illnesses.

With the treatment of pressure ulcers costing the NHS between £1.4 and £2.1 billion each year (Bennett et al), consider how much better it would be to invest in a seating solution that could help reduce the risk of pressure damage.



CareFlex WaterCell Technology® Responsive Contouring

Pressure Management

At the heart of our specialist seating is our patented WaterCell Technology which provides a continuous low-pressure solution for people at medium to high risk of pressure damage.

Included as Standard in our Adult Specialist Seating Range

All CareFlex adult specialist seating solutions have WaterCell Technology built in as standard, enabling the user to achieve a stable and functional posture with continuous pressure relief and comfort.



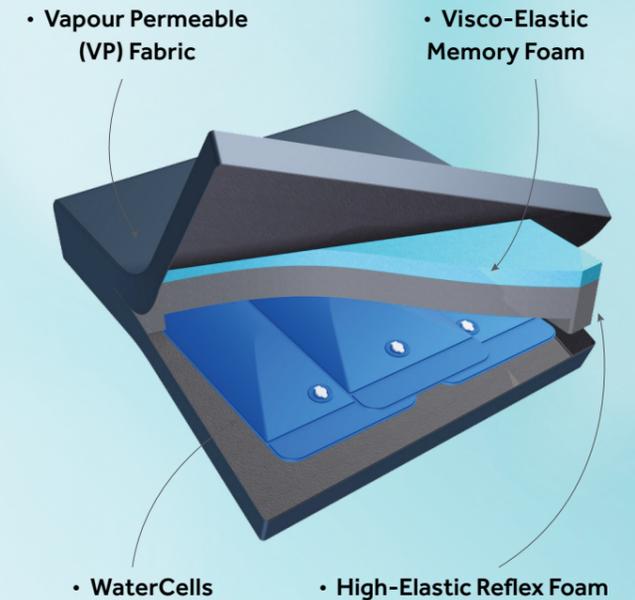
Responsive Contouring

The water cells work by allowing the seat cushion to contour naturally and effectively around the person's body.

The layer of Visco-Elastic Memory Foam moulds to the shape of the buttocks and thighs, distributing weight over a large surface area and minimising pressure build-up under bony areas.

The water cells and layer of High-Elastic Reflex Foam are resistant to compression, so even under maximum load, our seating will provide dynamic, responsive support, protecting vulnerable areas.

The fluid in each water cell is highly dynamic and responds instantly to changes in movement to ensure full contact is maintained between the body and the cushion.



At CareFlex we have earned an outstanding reputation for the quality of our products and service. Independent testing has demonstrated the effectiveness of WaterCell Technology*. This means that we are confident that in a managed and trained care environment, our WaterCell Technology will suit users of all risk categories**.

* MDA Evaluation PS5, 1998, Armchairs with Special Features to Reduce Interface Pressure, Alternating Pressure Cushions and Supplementary Cushions, A Comparative Evaluation.

** Please be aware that the effectiveness of CareFlex pressure-reducing products depends on their proper use. We recommend specialist training and correct usage to avoid the potential dangers of incorrect application.