



Are you sitting comfortably?

Case Story: The use of polyurethane coated fabrics in specialist seating by Seating Matters

Being seated for long periods of time can become uncomfortable; especially for those with reduced mobility or significant medical needs.

Award-winning Seating Matters, a leader in therapeutic seating solutions, extensively utilizes polyurethane (PU) coated fabrics, such as Dartex® by Trelleborg, in their products to enhance patient care at the skin contact point.

These fabrics are particularly significant in the prevention of pressure injuries, a critical concern in both acute and long-term care settings.

“All Seating Matters chairs have been developed and engineered to offer optimum quality, safety, pressure management and support for both patients and caregivers. Our company has used Dartex® fabrics for over 16 years, as they offer all the qualities that make Seating Matters products the optimum choice for our customers.”

said **Martin Tierney**, Director at Seating Matters

Pressure injury prevention

Pressure injuries, also known as pressure ulcers, are a significant risk for patients who spend extended periods seated or bedridden. **An estimated 1 in 10 of the global healthcare population are affected by pressure injuries¹.**

The Dartex® PU coated fabrics used in Seating Matters chairs, such as the Sorrento and Phoenix models, provide excellent pressure redistribution, a key factor in preventing avoidable pressure injuries.

According to research cited by Seating Matters, specialist seating can lead to a substantial decrease in pressure injury prevalence, which directly correlates with reduced hospitalization costs and better patient quality of life².

Seating Matters' use of Dartex® by Trelleborg aligns with their commitment to providing optimum quality, safety, pressure management, and support for both patients and caregivers.

“Dartex® polyurethane coated fabrics are a great choice for specialist seating due to their combination of durability, flexibility, and breathability. These characteristics make them superior to other materials like vinyl, especially in medical environments where patient comfort and hygiene are paramount.”

said **Richard Haxby**, Technical Director Healthcare & Medical, Trelleborg Engineered Coated Fabrics

Images: © Seating Matters

References: ¹ Li Z, Lin F, Thalib L, Chaboyer W. Global prevalence and incidence of pressure injuries in hospitalised adult patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. International journal of nursing studies. 2020 May 1;105:103546

² <https://seatingmatters.com/clinical-benefits>

Promoting patient comfort and well-being

The use of Dartex® Performance range ensures that Seating Matters' products offer maximum functionality with all-around performance, including providing fluid-proof, virus-proof barriers for infection control.

This commitment to quality and patient care is evident in the testimonials from healthcare professionals who have observed significant improvements in patient comfort and injury prevention when using Seating Matters chairs equipped with Dartex®.

Dartex®, a polyurethane coated fabric, was originally developed for use in the the NHS in the 1990s and has since become the material of choice globally in the healthcare and medical sector due to its superior properties compared to vinyl.

The clinical advantages of using Dartex® in specialist seating are manifold. Firstly, the higher moisture vapor permeability (MVP) of polyurethane allows for moisture vapors from the body to pass through the contact surface, reducing the risk of moisture build-up which can lead to pressure injuries.

The low friction surface of Dartex® by Trelleborg is ideal for reducing skin shear, as it minimizes the rubbing of skin against the contact surface, a common issue with vinyl materials.

This is aided by the stretch properties of Dartex®; allowing immersion and envelopment of the seated person.

Clinical seating – fit for healthcare environments

The use of polyurethane coated fabrics in specialist seating by companies like Seating Matters represents a significant advancement in patient care.

These materials' unique properties contribute to improved patient outcomes, particularly in the prevention of pressure injuries. As healthcare continues to evolve, the adoption of

such innovative materials will be essential in providing high-quality, cost-effective patient care.

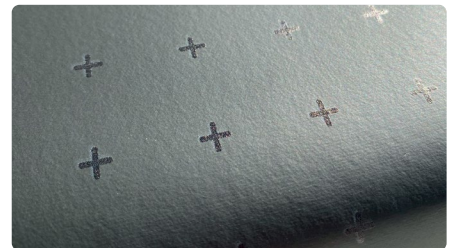
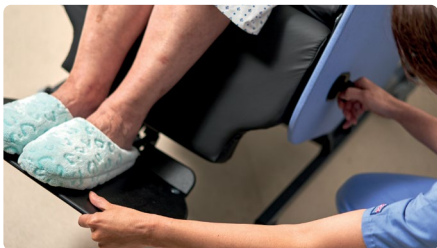
Seating Matters' dedication to clinical excellence and the use of innovative materials like Dartex® is a testament to their role as leaders in the field of specialist seating for healthcare applications.

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Seating Matters has teamed up with Trelleborg to offer UV printed fabric options in the stunning Posicon print. Find out more...






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About Trelleborg:

Trelleborg is a world leader in engineered polymer solutions that seal, damp and protect critical applications in demanding environments. Its innovative engineered solutions accelerate performance for customers in a sustainable way. The Trelleborg Group has local presence in over 40 countries around the world.

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