

## Cushion Foam Buying Guide

PRODUCT	FIRMNESS	DENSITY (LB./CU. FT.)	WATER DRAINAGE	TREATMENT/ ADDITIVES	RECOMMENDED USES	QUALITY
Polyester Fiberfill - 15 Denier	N/A	Variable	★★★	Slick, Anti-bunch finish	Pillows, seating backs, pet beds, crafts	★★★★★
Polyester Batting	N/A	Not rated	★★★	None	Adds extra padding and rounded edges to cushions, upholstery and headboards	★★
CushionRite® Standard Antimicrobial Foam	Soft, Medium, Firm	1.8	★	Biocide/Antimicrobial	Cushions, marine seating, mattresses (occasional use)	★★★
Fabric Backed Sew Foam	Firm	Not rated	★	None	Headliner/hull liner, helm seats, automotive upholstery, coaming	★★★★
CushionRite® Dry Fast Antimicrobial Foam	Soft, Medium, Firm	1.8-2.2	★★★★★	Biocide/Antimicrobial	Cushions, marine seating, cockpit cushions, v-berth cushions, mattresses (occasional use)	★★★★
CushionRite® Flotation Antimicrobial Foam	Extra Firm	3-4.5	N/A	Biocide/Antimicrobial	Cockpit cushions, bosun's chairs, flotation gear	★★★★★
CushionRite® Premium Foam	Extra Soft, Soft, Medium, Extra Firm	2.8	★	None	Cushions, mattresses, automotive upholstery, upholstery (high traffic use)	★★★★★
CushionRite® Premium Antimicrobial Foam	Firm	2.8	★	Biocide/Antimicrobial	Cushions, marine seating, mattresses, automotive upholstery	★★★★★

### FIRMNESS

A foam's firmness is measured by a value called Indentation Force Deflection (IFD). The IFD represents how many pounds it takes to compress a piece of foam by 25%. IFDs are listed in the foam descriptions. Here, they are generalized in firmness: extra soft, soft, medium, firm and extra firm.

### DENSITY

Density is a measurement of how little air is in the foam and is expressed in pounds per cubic foot. Generally speaking, the higher the density, the better grade of foam. However, for occasional use in marine seating or patio furniture, a high density can be considered excessive for the amount of wear the cushion will see. Anything above a rating of 2.3 lbs./cu. ft. is considered high density.

### WATER DRAINAGE

Foam that easily drains water has a ranking of 3 stars or better. CushionRite Flotation Foam is a closed cell foam that absorbs almost no water at all, making it a great choice for flotation gear and cockpit cushions that double as flotation devices on your vessel. For a foam that does not drain well, we recommend wrapping it in silk film as a protective layer to keep the foam from getting wet.

### TREATMENT/ADDITIVES

Some foam has a biocide/antimicrobial treatment to prevent mold and mildew. This treatment is recommended for any absorbent foam that will be in a marine environment or that is regularly exposed to water. The Polyester Fiberfill has a slick finish that prevents it from bunching when stuffed inside fabric.

## Foam FAQs

### **Do I need a higher density than 1.8 on my boat?**

No. While it is true that higher density foams have more longevity, densities of about 1.4-1.8 are considered industry standards for boat seats. Most foams with a higher density will not have a biocide treatment, which is a crucial component of boating foam. Additionally, the majority of boat seats only see occasional use throughout the year, so a 1.8 density will be more than sufficient.

### **What is HR foam? Do I need it on my boat?**

HR foam stands for High Resilience foam. This type of foam has a more random cell structure than other foams, which allows it to quickly regain its shape and be very supportive. While this foam is excellent for mattresses and upholstery, it is better suited for indoor applications, as moisture from the outdoors may compromise the properties of the foam.

### **Can I use any of these foams inside my home?**

Yes! Polyester Fiberfill is great for indoor or outdoor pillow stuffing. CushionRite Standard Antimicrobial Foam can be used indoors for occasional use only, but CushionRite Flotation Foam is not recommended for indoor use. CushionRite Premium Foam is an excellent choice for high-traffic applications like upholstered furniture and interior cushions. It is expected to last up to 12 years, even with daily use.

### **How can I give my cushion rounded edges?**

Wrapping batting around the foam before inserting it into your cushion fabric will create that soft, rounded look. To add batting, spray the foam with a spray adhesive. Then wrap the batting around the foam so that the top, bottom and one side are covered.

### **Is there a trick to getting the foam inside the fabric?**

Squeezing foam inside cushion fabric can be really tough. We recommend using silk film to shrink your foam for insertion. To use the silk film, cover and tuck the film loosely around the foam. Insert the vacuum hose into an open end of the film directly onto the foam and turn on. The vacuum's suction will compress the silk film over the foam and shrink the foam. Turn off the vacuum and the foam will expand to its original size. Silk film has an added benefit, acting as a waterproof layer between the cushion and the fabric. Silk film is recommended for use with polyurethane foam (CushionRite Standard and Premium).

### **Can I make a thicker cushion by layering pieces?**

Yes you can. To create a thicker cushion, stack pieces of foam on top of each other, using a spray adhesive to glue the pieces together. When layering foams with different stiffnesses, the firmer foam should be on the bottom.

### **How do I cut foam?**

To cut traditional foam, you can use an electric kitchen knife. If you have a large amount of foam to cut you can purchase a foam cutting tool, such as the Sailrite® Blade Foam Saw.

### **How do I shape foam?**

To create rounded curves and specific shapes in your foam, use the Sailrite® Foam Shaper. This handheld tool gradually shaves upholstery and seating foam, allowing you to sculpt and contour foam to your desired shape. Use this tool for automotive upholstery, bolster pads, knee-rise cushions and more.