

The procedures described herein are for ROHO® DRY FLOATATION® cushions and mattress overlays. Covers should be removed, cleaned and disinfected separately per instructions on the label. Cleaning and disinfecting are two separate processes. *Cleaning* is the removal of soil, dirt and organic matter from the cushion. *Disinfecting* is the elimination of pathogenic microorganisms. Cleaning must precede disinfection.

## Cleaning

**Home Cleaning:** Deflate the cushion, close the valve(s) and place in a large deep sink or bath tub with enough warm water to immerse completely. Home cleaning products can be used including: liquid dish washing detergents (DO NOT USE automatic dishwasher detergents which are too caustic for personal safety), liquid laundry detergents or general purpose housekeeping cleaning products. Dilute following the product label directions for surface cleaning.

Use a soft plastic bristle brush, sponge or washcloth to gently but thoroughly scrub all of the air cells and the spaces in between. Use the edge of the sink or tub to spread the air cells for good access to the base. Rinse completely and towel or hang to dry.

**Institutional cleaning:** Follow the same directions as for home cleaning. A general purpose housekeeping detergent (with or without disinfectant) can be used. Universal precautions are recommended for the cleaning of any product that has been in patient contact. Wear personal protective equipment that will prevent contact with body fluids. ROHO protocol for cleaning includes the use of special clothing, plastic aprons, boots, eye glasses or goggles, face shield, latex gloves and rubber gloves.

## Disinfecting

To disinfect the cleaned cushion use a germicidal product that meets institutional infection control protocol.

**Home disinfection:** periodic cleaning is all that is needed unless there is a known infection or an open wound. For disinfection use a solution of 1 part household liquid chlorine bleach to 9 parts of warm water. Prepare cushion for disinfection, and wear protective clothing, as outlined for cleaning. Soak (keep the cushion surface wet) the clean cushion in the bleach solution for 10 minutes, rinse completely and allow to dry.

### Deodorize:

To deodorize a cushion use a tablespoon of baking soda per quart of water (25 gm/l) Soak the cushion

for several hours, rinse and let dry. This may need to be repeated several times. As an alternate, cleaning products that contain Febreze® (*registered trademark of Proctor & Gamble*) have been found to help minimize odor without effecting product performance.

Clean cushion frequently to avoid strong odors. Use an incontinent covering to avoid odor staining the cushion.

**Institutional disinfection:** Most cleaning and germicidal disinfectants are safe for use on ROHO DRY FLOATATION cushions. Some disinfecting products may over an extended period time with repetitive use cause a slight reduction in product life<sup>1</sup>. ROHO recommends the use of a disinfectant with germicidal, tuberculocidal, fungicidal and virucidal activity sufficient to pass AOAC test criteria. ROHO uses WEX-CIDE™ (*trademark of Wexford Labs, Inc.*), a phenolic type product from Wexford Labs, Inc. Sodium dichloroisocyanurate (dry bleach) products have also been used without detrimental effects.

NOTE: Non-active ingredients in disinfecting solutions may cause problems because they do not rinse completely from the cushion or attack the rubber. Symptoms include sticky, tacky surfaces that may become mottled with soft blister-like spots. Discontinue use if stickiness appears.

## Sterilization

**ROHO does not recommend high temperature sterilization methods. If local protocol requires sterilization, gas methods are preferred. Steam Autoclave can be used but excessive temperature and time may eventually have an adverse effect on the cushion. The lowest temperature for the shortest time allowed by local protocol should be used. Temperatures at or below 200F for 10 minutes or less are advised. Be sure to open all valves before subjecting the cushion to elevated temperatures (even for gas sterilization methods). Covers**

<sup>1</sup> signs of premature aging - stiffening of the cushion and a dry appearance with cracking and crazing of the surface