

## Constant Reactive Support Devices

**Foam:** High Specification Foam.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Device weight is lighter</li> <li>▪ Easily maintained</li> <li>▪ Easily customised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor density</li> <li>▪ Increases insulation and temperature</li> <li>▪ Can be difficult to launder if not covered appropriately</li> </ul>

**Gel Mattress:** Cells filled with gel create this support surface.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good posture control</li> <li>▪ Provides heat conduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant weight</li> <li>▪ Higher tendency for maintenance</li> <li>▪ Potential for leak</li> <li>▪ Increases moisture of the skin</li> </ul>

**Air / Low air loss:** A powered mattress that fills with air, allowing air to escape from the mattress cells.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Redistributes a high level of pressure</li> <li>▪ Light in weight</li> <li>▪ Mattress inflation can be customised</li> <li>▪ Continuous full body pressure redistribution</li> <li>▪ Flow of air assists in managing heat and humidity regulation of the skin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduced posture control</li> <li>▪ Potential to leak</li> <li>▪ Can make patient transfers in and out of bed difficult</li> <li>▪ Loud pump</li> <li>▪ May contribute to dehydration</li> <li>▪ Contraindicated for unstable or suspected unstable spinal injury</li> </ul>

**Alternating pressure:** A powered, air filled surface that redistributes pressure by cyclic inflation and deflation of air cells.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cyclic pressure – redistribution by changes in loading and unloading</li> <li>▪ Continuous change of contact points</li> <li>▪ Maintains postural support</li> <li>▪ More suited to patients who cannot be turned (or who request not to be turned)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for bottoming out if settings/pressure set incorrectly</li> <li>▪ Loud pump</li> <li>▪ Contraindicated for unstable or suspected unstable spinal injury</li> </ul>