

Assessing for a Star Cushion

Star cushions are designed for individuals needing optimal immersion and envelopment.

1 Assess Stability and Postural Needs

Assess the individual’s needs for stable base, offloading, and/or individualised shape for postural support.

2 Select the Right Cushion Model

Select the most appropriate cushion model based on the required features.



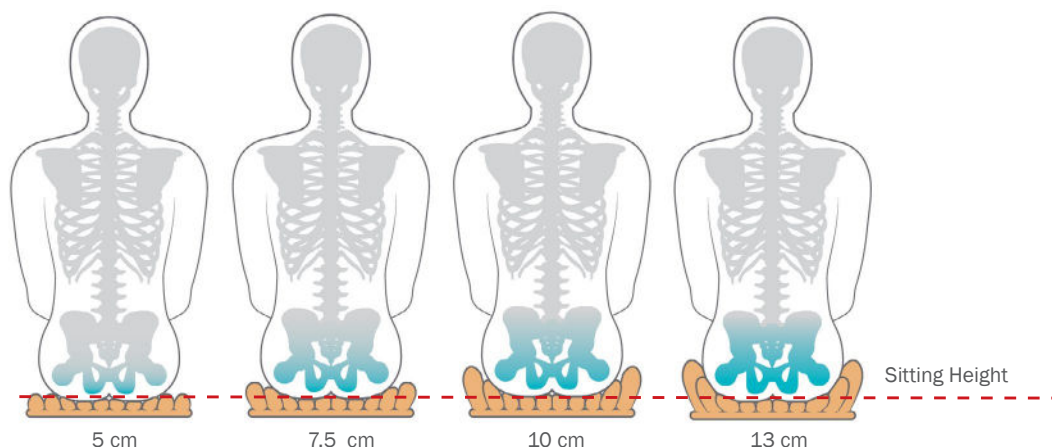
Feature	Standard Air	StabilAir	StarLock
<p>Pressure Redistribution</p>	✓	✓	✓
<p>Stability</p>	Full Lock		✓
	Slowed Airflow	✓	
<p>Offloading</p>			✓
<p>Postural Support</p>			✓

3 Assess the Risk

Assess the risk of the individual developing a pressure injury. A risk assessment scale can be a helpful aid in determining risk, e.g., Waterlow, Norton or Braden, however do not replace the need for clinical reasoning.

4 Select Cushion Height

Star cushions are available in four heights:



Cushion Height	Pressure Redistribution*	Offloading (Starlock only)	Posture (Starlock only)
5 cm	Low to medium-risk active users.		
7.5 cm	Medium to high-risk active users.		7.5 cm StarLock can accommodate mild asymmetry.
10 cm	High to very high risk users.	Reduce load to vulnerable bony prominences.	10 cm StarLock can accommodate moderate asymmetry.
13 cm	High immersion for excellent pressure redistribution. And may also envelop the greater trochanters.	Reduce load to vulnerable bony prominences and vulnerable tissue.	13 cm StarLock can accommodate large asymmetry.

*This is a guide is based on level of immersion, and is not intended to supersede clinical judgment.

With StarLock, higher air cells enable greater stability and positioning abilities. Be aware, however, that lower heights may still be preferred by some, e.g., for easier transfers.

Use pressure redistribution cushions in conjunction with a wider program of care. Weight-shifting and pressure-relieving manoeuvres remain important pressure injury prevention methods, irrespective of the support surface type.