

Questions & Answers

Q The bedpad is not absorbing/never has absorbed, or absorbed at first but has got progressively worse over a period of time.

A This is due to the pad being washed with an agent powder or liquid that contains cationic surfactants, or with fabric conditioners or softeners containing the same. Check the contents on the side of the packet of your washing powder.

Q Does this mean that the bedpad is now no good.

A No. You can get the pad to become absorbent again if you wash it at 95° two or three times, using a washing agent that does not contain cationic surfactants.

Q What powders do you recommend ?

A As they change the formulas all the time it is difficult to advise, but we use Persil in the test laboratory.

Q The bedsheet appears to be faulty, the rucking up on the surface will make it uncomfortable. It is not lying flat on the bed as there appears to be too much fabric in the top sheet. Is it faulty?

A No. We have allowed for the differential shrinkage between the waterproof barrier and the fabric top sheet and soaker. This is why we ask you to wash it at 95° BEFORE USE, so that after one hot wash it will lie perfectly flat.

Q I do not think my machine will wash at 95°, what shall I do?

A Do not worry, you will get the same result if you wash it two or three times at a lower temperature.

Q I want to use the bedsheet straight away without washing it, as I have not got time to wash it first, will it still work/absorb?

A Yes. Although it will not be as comfortable because of the extra fabric in the top sheet.

Gompels HealthCare Ltd

No.1 Swift Way, Bowerhill Ind. Est. Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6GX

Tel: 0845 450 2420 Fax: 0845 450 2422 Email: sales@gompels.co.uk



Q Can I use an electric blanket with a bedpad?

A Yes. Although we would recommend that you switch the blanket off when in bed, as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Q What is a washable product?

A A washable product or reusable product is something that can be used again ... and again. Generally up to 300 times.

Q How are the washable of today different from those in the past?

A The combination of new technology, high performing textiles and superior manufacturing capabilities has led to improvements in washable products.

- They look more pleasing
- They are more absorbent
- They are more comfortable to wear
- They can be washed at higher temperatures i.e. 95°C
- They last longer

Q Why use washable products when disposables have been OK?

- A
1. Cost savings
 2. Less storage space needed
 3. More freedom for the patient i.e. skin can get air at night if using a bed pad
 4. Less time needed for receiving deliveries

Gompels HealthCare Ltd

No.1 Swift Way, Bowerhill Ind. Est. Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6GX

Tel: 0845 450 2420 **Fax:** 0845 450 2422 **Email:** sales@gompels.co.uk



Q What are the other benefits of washables?

- A 1. Environmental factors:-
- less waste disposal → reduces landfill problems
 - less raw materials → saves on trees used for pulp and oil used in plastic
 - savings on clinical waste removal.

Q How do they absorb?

A Each pad has a middle layer called a soaker layer. The top layer wicks fluid away from the patient into the soaker layer, which quickly absorbs fluid – this acts like SAP and pulp in disposable products.

Q Will the skin be dry?

A Yes. The top layer is a one-way Staydry fabric with hydrophobic properties. This means that once fluid has passed through the top layer into the soaker layer it is locked into the core and wetback is minimised. This acts like the non-woven top sheet on disposable products.

Q What stops them from leaking?

A A waterproof vinyl backing sheet acts as a barrier and prevents moisture leaking on to clothes and bedding – this performs like the plastic backing on disposable products.

Q How do they compare to current products?

A Washables will absorb and perform the same as disposables for light or moderate incontinence. The difference is that different textiles/components are used to achieve the same benefits. For example:

Gompels HealthCare Ltd

No.1 Swift Way, Bowerhill Ind. Est. Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6GX

Tel: 0845 450 2420 **Fax:** 0845 450 2422 **Email:** sales@gompels.co.uk



<u>Disposables</u>	<u>Reusables</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Non woven top	Stay-dry surface sheet	Keeps skin dry
Pulp + SAP	Soaker Layer	Draws fluid away from top sheet, absorbs and wicks away.
Plastic backing	Vinyl backing	Waterproof barrier

Q Can pre-soaking agents be used before going into the washing machine?

A Yes, as long as they contain only small amounts of chlorine bleach or caustic cleansing agents.

Q How do barrier creams and talcs affect pad performance?

A The effect is the same on washable and disposable products.

- Do not use talc – this can cause friction and reduce the effectiveness of the pad.
- If applying cream, then layer a small amount gently in the direction of hair growth but do not rub in. Large amounts of cream will reduce the pads effectiveness.

Q Can they be washed with other linen?

A Yes. This is personal choice.

Q Where should soiled pads/pants be stored before washing?

A Laundry bags are available. Plastic baskets or bins can be placed near washing machines. Consider how wet bedding would be handled at the moment.

Q What about infection control?

A 1. Bed Pads can be washed at 95° C. DH recommends that any wash over 76° C will kill bacteria and control infection.

Gompels HealthCare Ltd

No.1 Swift Way, Bowerhill Ind. Est. Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6GX

Tel: 0845 450 2420 **Fax:** 0845 450 2422 **Email:** sales@gompels.co.uk

