



# Invacare® Essential® Range

Invacare® Essential® / Invacare® Essential® Visco /  
Invacare® Essential® Low Profile

en **Cushion**  
**User Manual**

## 1 General

### 1.1 Introduction

This user manual contains important information about the handling of the product. To ensure safety when using the product, read the user manual carefully and follow the safety instructions.

Invacare reserves the right to alter product specifications without further notice.

Before reading this document, make sure you have the latest version. You find the latest version as a PDF on the Invacare website.

If you find that the font size in the printed document is difficult to read, you can download the PDF version from the website. The PDF can then be scaled on screen to a font size that is more comfortable for you.

In case of a serious incident with the product, you should inform the manufacturer and the competent authority in your country.

### 1.2 Symbols in this Document

Symbols and signal words are used in this document and apply to hazards or unsafe practices which could result in personal injury or property damage. See the information below for definitions of the signal words.



#### **WARNING!**

Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in serious injury or death if it is not avoided.



#### **CAUTION!**

Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in minor or slight injury if it is not avoided.



#### **NOTICE!**

Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in damage to property if it is not avoided.



#### **Tips and Recommendations**

Gives useful tips, recommendations, and information for efficient, trouble-free use.

This manual **MUST** be given to the user of the product.  
**BEFORE** using this product, this manual **MUST** be read and saved for future reference.



**Yes, you can.**

## 1.3 Compliance

Quality is fundamental to the company's operation, working within the disciplines of ISO 13485.

This product features the CE mark, in compliance with the Medical Device Regulation 2017/745 Class I.

This product features the UKCA mark, in compliance with Part II UK MDR 2002 (as amended) Class I.

We are continuously working towards ensuring that the company's impact on the environment, locally and globally, is reduced to a minimum.

We only use REACH compliant materials and components.

## 1.4 Service Life

The expected service life of this product is three years when used daily and in accordance with the safety instructions, maintenance intervals and correct use, stated in this manual. The effective service life can vary according to frequency and intensity of use.

## 1.5 Warranty Information

We provide a manufacturer's warranty for the product in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions of Business in the respective countries.

Warranty claims can only be made through the provider from whom the product was obtained.

## 1.6 Limitation of Liability

Invacare accepts no liability for damage arising from:

- Non-compliance with the user manual
- Incorrect use
- Natural wear and tear
- Incorrect assembly or set-up by the purchaser or a third party
- Technical modifications
- Unauthorised modifications and/or use of unsuitable spare parts

# 2 Safety

## 2.1 General Safety Information

Education, clinical judgement and action-based planning based on vulnerability are fundamental factors in prevention of pressure injuries.

A range of assessment scales can be used as a formal method of assessing risk from pressure injury development, and should be used in conjunction with an informal assessment (informed nursing judgement). Informal assessment is considered to be of greater importance and clinical value.



### WARNING!

#### Risk of Serious Injury or Damage

Improper use of this product may cause injury or damage.

- If you are unable to understand the warnings, cautions or instructions, contact a health care professional or provider before attempting to use this equipment.
- Do not use this product or any available optional equipment without first completely reading and understanding there instructions and any additional instructional material such as user manual, service manual or instruction sheet supplied with this product or optional equipment.



### WARNING!

#### Risk of Developing Pressure Injuries

Any object between the user and the pressure reducing surface may result in the development of pressure injuries.

- Make sure that the support surface in contact with the user is kept free from crumbs and other food debris.
- Drip cables and other foreign objects must not become trapped between the user and the pressure reducing surface.



### CAUTION!

#### Risk of Injury or Damage to Property

- Before use, check the product for any defect.
- Do not use a defective product.



### CAUTION!

#### Risk of Injury or Damage to Property

- Cushion must be used with the cover at all times.

## 2.2 Safety Information for Transport

- Take care when handling the product to avoid any damage.
- Avoid contact with jewellery, nails, abrasive surfaces etc.
- Avoid contact with walls, door frames, door catches or locks etc.
- Do not transport in roll cages unless completely protected from the sharp edges of the cage.

## 3 Product Overview

### 3.1 Product Description

Invacare Essential Visco cushions have a two layer construction. The base consists of high resilient foam which prevents bottoming out. The top layer is constructed from heat sensitive viscoelastic (memory) foam. This allows the surface of the cushion to conform to the shape of the body. The cover consists of a multi-stretch, breathable and water repellent fabric.

Invacare Essential and Essential Low Profile cushions have a high density foam core (2" or 3" height). The cover consists of a multi-stretch, breathable and water repellent fabric.

### 3.2 Intended Use

This cushion is intended to be used in an armchair or wheelchair as part of an overall pressure injury prevention program of care.

#### Intended Users

Essential cushions can be used for users who have reduced mobility and are at risk of developing pressure injuries.

#### Indications

At Risk	Not at Risk
Suitable for users at risk of skin breakdown.	Helps to reduce the risk of developing pressure ulcers, ensuring improved support and comfort for the user.











#### Contra-indications










Usage within the maximum user weight limits that are set. This assumes that the cushion selected is of appropriate width and depth for the intended user and well fitted to the device that the user is sitting on.

If stored in a cool area, the cushion must be brought up to room temperature.

Ensure cushion is well fitted with the seat where it is going to be placed and that the seat/wheelchair is adjusted to the user.

### 3.3 Symbols on the Product

	European Conformity		Medical Device
	Manufacturer		UK Conformity Assessed
	European representative		Date of manufacture
	Lot number		Read user manual
	Maximum user weight		Unique Device Identifier

	Machine wash (maximum temperature see label)		Do not dry clean
	Do not iron		Avoid burning cigarette
	Do not bleach		Do not pierce or cut
	Do not put near flame		Tumble dry low heat
	Orientation label		

## 4 Usage

### 4.1 Safety Information



#### WARNING!

Invacare advise that the patient is assessed by a trained healthcare professional to ensure the correct size and seating requirements. This is to achieve the best pressure and postural care and that position for the individuals needs are met.

- Always consult a healthcare professional before using the product.



#### WARNING!

It is very important for the patient to reposition themselves, or to be repositioned, on a regular basis. This relieves pressure which helps prevent both tissue compression and potential pressure injury formation. Skin redness is one clinical indicator for skin breakdown.

- Regularly inspect/monitor if your skin develops any redness.
- Immediately contact a healthcare professional, if your skin develops redness.



#### NOTICE!

Accidental cover damage allows fluid ingress and staining.

- Do not place sharp objects on the cover.
- When using patient transfer aids, ensure not to damage the cover. Check for sharp edges or burrs before use.
- Ensure the product is not jammed or damaged by sharp edges when used on wheelchairs.
- If pets are around, ensure that no claws puncture the cover.



#### NOTICE!

The water resistant cover allows fluids to roll off the surface, however with sustained periods of fluid contact the cover may absorb moisture.

- Wipe away any fluid as soon as it is identified.

## 4.2 Using Cushion

1. Remove all packaging before use.
2. Place cushion on wheelchair or chair with grey anti-slip base facing down.
3. Ensure that cushion is placed in coordination with orientation label, located on right hand side of cushion.



## 5 Maintenance

### 5.1 General Maintenance Information

#### General safety information



#### **WARNING!** Risk of Injury

- Maintenance should be done at least once a month.
- Do not use a defective product.
- Do not attempt repairs yourself. For repairs, contact your provider.

### 5.2 Inspection

Check cushion (foam and cover) for strike-through after the use of each patient, or on a minimum monthly basis. This may include, but not limited too, fluid ingress, stains, rips or damage. Checks should be carried out by a suitably qualified and competent person.

#### Check cushions

1. Unzip the cover completely.
2. Check for any staining on the interior foam.
3. Replace any damaged cover or stained foam and dispose of as per local authority procedure.

### 5.3 Cleaning and disinfection

#### General safety information



#### **CAUTION!** Risk of Contamination

- Take precautions for yourself and use appropriate protective equipment.



#### **NOTICE!**

Wrong fluids or methods can harm or damage the product.

- All cleaning agents and disinfectants used must be effective, compatible with one another and must protect the materials they are used to clean.
- Never use corrosive fluids (alkalines, acid etc.) or abrasive cleaning agents. We recommend an ordinary household cleaning agent such as dishwashing liquid, if not specified otherwise in the cleaning instructions.
- Always make sure that the product is completely dried before taking into use again.



For cleaning and disinfection in clinical or long-term care environments, follow your in-house procedures.

#### Cleaning Intervals



#### **NOTICE!**

Regular cleaning and disinfection enhance smooth operation, increases the service life and prevents contamination.

Clean and disinfect the product

- regularly while it is in use,
- before and after any service procedure,
- when it has been in contact with any body fluids,
- before using it for a new user.



#### **NOTICE!**

- Keep a cleaning record as part of cleaning the system.

#### Cleaning Instructions

##### Cleaning Covers

(Removal of contaminants such as dust and organic matter)

1. Remove cover for laundering.
2. Launder the cover with maximum temperature as stated on product label, using a diluted detergent solution (Instructions on label).



#### **NOTICE!**

- Washing at higher temperatures will cause shrinkage.

##### Drying Covers

1. Hang cover from a line or bar and drip dry in a clean indoor environment or;
2. Tumble dry on a low temperature.



#### **NOTICE!**

- Tumble dry setting must not exceed 40 °C.
- Do not tumble dry for longer than 10 minutes.
- Dry thoroughly before use.

#### Disinfection Instructions



#### **NOTICE!**

- Only use disinfectants and methods approved by your local infection control institution and follow your local infection control policy.

## Disinfecting Covers

### (Reducing the number of microorganisms)

- ! NOTICE!**  
Failure in disinfection process may result in the accumulation of reagent that could damage the polyurethane coating, react with the frame, or negate the biocompatibility results.
- Ensure that all cleaning agents, and disinfectants, are thoroughly rinsed off.
  - Dry thoroughly before use.

1. Wipe down the cover with a suitable detergent.
2. Rinse the cover thoroughly with clean water using a single use nonabrasive cloth.
3. Dry the cover thoroughly.

- ! NOTICE!**  
**Heavy soilage**  
When badly soiled, we recommend cleaning with a diluted detergent solution at maximum temperature in the washing machine.
- Clean up all spillages of bodily fluids e.g., blood, urine, faeces, sputum, wound exudate and all other bodily secretions as soon as possible using a suitable detergent.
  - Large spillages of blood should be absorbed and removed with paper towels first, followed by as above.

## Replacing Cover

1. Unzip cover and remove it carefully from the foam core.
2. Place new cover onto the foam core.  
Ensure that the corners of the foam core are positioned correctly into the corners of the cover.
3. Close the zipper. Where ever possible ensure the slider / sliders are positioned at the rear of the cushion.



### WARNING!

- In event of contamination, contact your hygiene specialist.
- Remove contaminated foams from use.

## 6 After Use

### 6.1 Storage

- Store device in a dry environment.
- Store device within a protective cover.
- Store the product on a clean, dry surface free from sharp edges to avoid any possible damage.
- Never store other items on top of the product.
- Do not store the product next to radiators or other heating devices.
- Protect the product from direct sunlight.

### 6.2 Disposal

Be environmentally responsible and recycle this product through your recycling facility at its end of life.

Disassemble the product and its components, so the different materials can be separated and recycled individually.

The disposal and recycling of used products and packaging must comply with the laws and regulations for waste handling in each country. Contact your local waste management company for information.

## 7 Technical Data

### 7.1 Dimensions and Weights

	Essential	Essential Visco	Essential Low Profile
Total Height [mm]	75		50
Width Range [mm] <sup>1)</sup>	230 – 510		
Depth Range [mm] <sup>1)</sup>	230 – 535		
Weight of product [kg] <sup>2)</sup>	0.6	0.7	0.5
Maximum user weight [kg] <sup>3)</sup>	108	100	

<sup>1)</sup> Not all depths are available throughout the width range.

<sup>2)</sup> Weights can vary depending on size of cushion ordered, average weights used as an indication.

<sup>3)</sup> Maximum user weight limits are set provided that the cushion selected is of appropriate width and depth for the intended user.

Size charts and local requirements / certification available upon request from Invacare.

### 7.2 Materials

<b>Foam</b>	Polyurethane foam components
<b>Outer cover</b>	PU-coated nylon fabric

All product components do not contain natural rubber latex.

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