

# TYPES OF FOAM USED IN PLYWOOD & FOAM SEATS AND BACKS

## Soft Poly

Typically called Soft HR foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. This is typically used for an overlay kind of foam. Depending on the thickness used, it can add additional support to seating surfaces.

## Medium Poly

Typically called Medium HR foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. *This is the foam we see most customers using in custom wheelchair seating.* This is the kind of foam that the wheelchair seating industry was built on long ago. It's very versatile foam.

## Firm Poly

Typically called Firm or Medium Firm HR foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. We rarely use this type of foam but when we do we've noticed that people typically used it under softer layers of foam to create contours that are more forgiving than construction foam.

## Soft Visco

Visco foam conforms to whatever it comes in contact with and then returns to its original shape when pressure is no longer present. This is widely used as a weight distribution foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. Soft visco is a touchy-feely kind of foam that doesn't offer much for support in ½” or 1” layers but it does add to overall weight distribution across a contact surface. This foam is usually combined with other layers of foam that offer more for support. We typically see this type of foam used for small seating or ½” or 1” thick overlays for a very nice soft touch to the top of a seat or the front of a back. The size of what is applying pressure to this kind of foam make a big difference, take the tip of you finger and press it into the sample then take the palm of your hand and apply pressure to the sample, you'll see what I mean.

## Medium Visco

Visco foam conforms to whatever it comes in contact with and then returns to its original shape when pressure is no longer present. This is widely used as a weight distribution foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. *Medium visco foam is **very** popular and widely used.* We routinely see this combined with itself or with soft visco on top of it or firm visco or medium poly under it. It's very versatile foam.

## Firm Visco

Visco foam conforms to whatever it comes in contact with and then returns to its original shape when pressure is no longer present. This is widely used as a weight distribution foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. This is rarely used by itself, it usually used in combination with other softer foams.

## MC1900

Typically called construction foam. This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. This type of foam is not very forgiving but it works well for underlying foam structure that is going to be covered by layer(s) of softer foam(s). We routinely use this for all kinds of foam structure modifications where another poly or visco foam is going over the top, such as contoured seat and anti-thrust seat modification buildups when the layers of foam going over the top are not thin and/or very soft.

## MC1900 EVA

This foam is available in ½” and 1” layers. This foam is very similar to the MC1900 construction foam above but it has a softer touch feel than the MC1900. We routinely use it for contoured seat and anti-thrust seat modification buildups when the layers of foam going over the top are thin and/or very soft.

## VOLARA

This is 3/8” thick and has pressure sensitive adhesive backing. We typically use this foam on top of plywood as a barrier to help stop bottoming out directly on plywood. We use it when the foam chosen is less than or equal to 1½” in seats and less than or equal to 1” thick for backs.