

The history of the "rubber mat": better than concrete in the past, soft as a bed today

The first rubber mats over 50 years ago were solid with a maximum thickness of 2 cm. These were an achievement for tying stalls at that time – they were softer than concrete before. Modern rubber mats are no longer comparable to this. In fact, the deformability values of these highly developed comfort mats show that they are among the softest systems on the market.



What characterizes modern rubber comfort mats?

To meet animal welfare requirements, today's lying mats have special lower side profiles (e.g. honeycomb structure or blades made of rubber) that generate softness. Partly, this is additionally supported by a multi-layer composition (e.g. combination of rubber and foam). As a result, such comfort mats reach thicknesses of over 6 cm.

DLG measurement creates comparability on the market

In its softness tests, the DLG simulates the pressure load on a cow's joints when lying down, lying and getting up using ball penetration tests with a calotte. The standardized test procedure makes it very easy to compare DLG-tested products on the market. Modern rubber mats such as KEW Plus or WINGFLEX achieve deformabilities of over 4 cm. A comparison of common comfort lying surfaces on www.dlg.org shows how soft and dimensionally stable "rubber mats" perform.

Meaningful: softness after permanent tread load

It is not only the new condition that is decisive: the permanent tread load carried out as part of the DLG tests provides insights into the long-term softness of the products. This is where the high elasticity of a high-quality rubber compound becomes noticeable. KEW Plus and WELA, for example, still achieve a good 96 % of their original softness after the long-term test. The classification of the lying mats into softness classes according to DIN 3763 is based on this DLG test. In future, DIN 3763 can be used as a basis for funding decisions.

