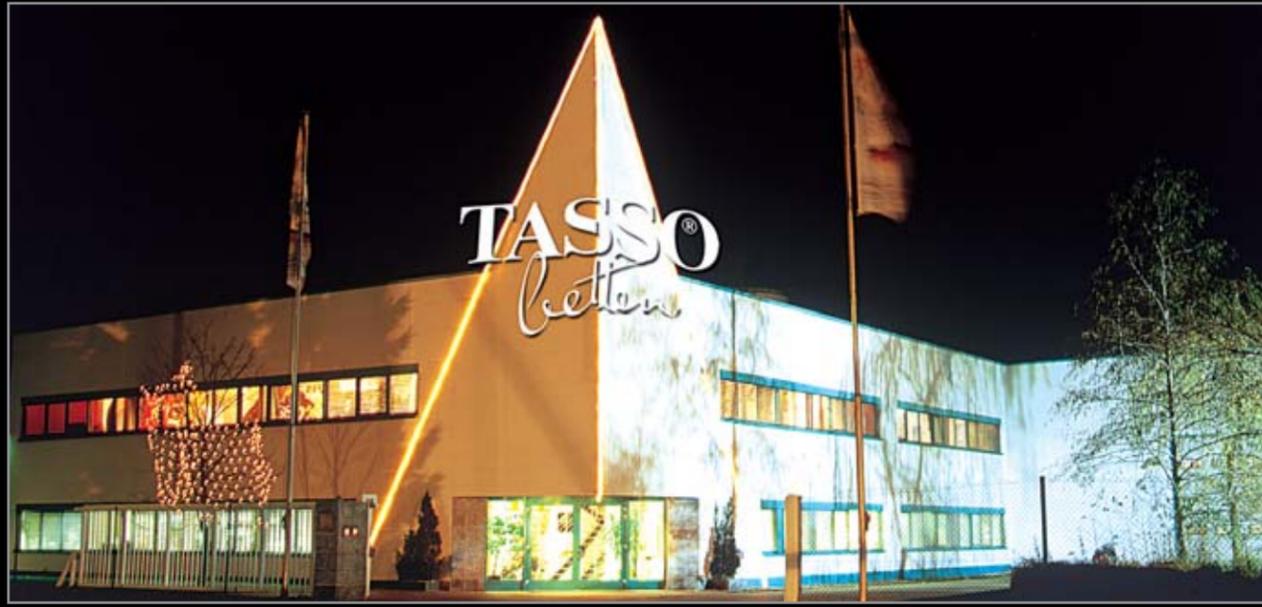




ENGLISH COMPACT VERSION

SOURCE OF LIFE





Made in Germany

A premium position in the waterbed market thanks to our commitment to innovative and scientific development.

Quality and Responsibility.

Report by Michaela Heinen.

Production was started in 1973 and marketing began in 1983.

At first, many people were skeptical about this attempt to compete with the booming American market on the basis of material costs which were about three times higher and wage costs that were four times higher. Soon, however, people were surprised to see that the importers themselves were turning to the company for consulting advice and tips on innovation at the same time as general authorities and bodies were being established in the industry - groups such as the German Association for Waterbeds, the IWB, to which virtually all importers, dealers and manufacturers would later apply for membership. Then there was the collaboration with scientific institutions, journals and trade fairs, all of which seemed to be preparing for a market which was ripe for exploitation.

As the German manufacturer started to become more and more successful and the US waterbed market and its products began to lose ground, the activities of competing companies seemed to be limited to aggressive attacks, probably based on the idea that the best company in the field must also be the best target.

Even from a superficial viewpoint, there was hardly anything to compare them to the American manufacturers. Large, modern production halls on enormous, almost romantic, green areas of industrial development. Inside were the latest machinery, technology and logistical processes together with friendly, highly-committed staff responsible for technology, hand-crafted production and administration. From a financial viewpoint, information suggested that this "sample company" was in an extremely healthy position and financially independent. It was acknowledged to be a company that paid its bills on time, a company which was generous in issues of goodwill and constantly on the lookout for new skilled staff and ways to improve the working atmosphere.

This company could today almost describe itself as the only waterbed manufacturer in the world. After all, we know of no other company which develops and produces all the components for a waterbed itself: liners and water blad-

ders, fabric and upholstery processing, heating systems, care products and furniture and frame construction, all comfortably meeting domestic requirements for health and the environment rather than being produced to uncontrolled export standards.

This is essential to ensure that the components are compatible with each other, thereby achieving longer life expectancy instead of finishing up as end-of-line models. Primarily, however, it is an issue of health: after all, we spend about a third of our lives sleeping and breathing on a mattress. Poor-quality softening agents found in the majority of cheap synthetic liner materials are rated as carcinogenic (see the report released by the Hamburg Environmental Institute warning of dangerous poisonous substances in many everyday objects).

We have also noticed that although there is not that much of a price difference between import products and "Made in Germany" products in Germany, the same American products are often sold at just a fraction of this cost in the USA. After carrying out a little more research into this, it emerged that unusually high profit margins were indeed added to these American products based on the motto "the more expensive, the better" - well, better for the company's cash flow anyway...

Another reason for the success of the waterbeds made in Germany could be that certain extra something you notice in the personnel, a certain independent spirit which can be seen in the management style and in how people work together. When we arrived we were given fruit and vegetables as well as tea, coffee, cake and juice. The people working there seemed to be unusually down-to-earth and committed to their job. They didn't seem to have time for formal hierarchies or forced manners, they clearly just had one target in mind: giving the best service they could.

The structure of the sales division seemed to be just as unconventional. The classic model of having external staff out on the road had been thrown out years ago and been replaced by more effective means of communication like the telephone, fax and Internet - the target was to provide better support and service to the dealers who formed the customer base and spend far less time ineffectually sitting in traffic.

It remains to be seen how far the customer, in this case the dealer, is prepared to do without the visits and cozy flattery of the sales representative. It certainly gives the companies selling imports and their sales representatives something to think about.

Company Profile

Vontana is probably the largest manufacturer in the world of waterbeds made in Germany which develops and produces all the components itself, taking responsibility for warranties and goodwill issues, enjoying financial independence and focusing entirely on creating the perfect waterbed. Vontana, in collaboration with various universities and scientists, is constantly seeking new ways to put innovative research and improvements into practice and to make sure that their products satisfy all the latest requirements from both an orthopedic and environmental perspective.

Patented ceramic heating systems boasting significant improvements in both performance and safety, new developments in safety liners, conditioners based on our own recipe, fabrics made of pure natural materials or non-allergic, boil-washable synthetic fiber layers which avoid problems with perspiration...

The fact that we build and upholster our own frames and furnishings allows us to produce individual small batches and customized designs. In the field of rehabilitation, the development of our Prenatal Room® has met with enormous success and has opened up new horizons in rehabilitation treatment for handicapped and seriously handicapped people.

In 1989 we set up facilities for sales and administration, bedroom furniture construction and development on our own 10,000 square meter plot in Oer-Erkenschwick, Germany. In 1995 we acquired a further 3000 square meters of warehouse space to be used for training, exhibitions, development, furniture construction and dispatch to specialist dealers. Our vinyls and textiles are processed behind closed doors in Recklinghausen to ensure that we maintain our cutting-edge leadership in know-how and experience. We are proud of a whole range of ecological and economic innovations: ceramic heating systems, fabric liners, the quality of our vinyl and care products, practical recycling methods even in the production phase where we acquire heat from the reutilization of shavings, CO2 neutral self sufficiency instead of heating oil. As a key player in the waterbed market we seek to develop both the quality of waterbed products and the maturity of the market itself through our comprehensive information, PR and training aids.

REGENERATION

through "weightless" sleeping

The secret is to make sure that the deep sleep phase is long enough.

A perfect waterbed helps to make you feel fresher in the mornings, it helps you to feel more relaxed and ready to enjoy a new day.

The three most important advantages it offers are:

1. Regeneration through weightless sleeping and perfectly even support

2. Relax with the gentle warmth

3. True hygiene with a mite-free mattress

Surfaces which create a pressure greater than 28 mm Hg lead to congested blood circulation and force people to shift position numerous times in their sleep.

Surface pressure lying well below 28 mm Hg guarantees longer-lasting deep sleep phases, thereby allowing the body to increase production of the STH regeneration hormone (somatotrophin H).

Only a surface pressure of 28 mm Hg can ensure free blood circulation through the skin blood vessels. Higher surface pressures forces you to constantly shift the position of your body.

So the key to high-quality regeneration is making sure that our nightly deep sleep phases are long enough. The regeneration and growth hormone (STH - somatotrophin hormone) is generated virtually exclusively in deep sleep phases. This means that the deep sleep phase is the most important production source of the regeneration and growth hormone which is required to help the body recover from everyday stress and to help professional athletes to rebuild their muscles.

In adults this hormone is generated in reduced quantities.

It has been shown that TASSO beds enable people to achieve much longer-lasting deep sleep phases in comparison with conventional sleeping systems.

Your body no longer has to constantly shift position during the night thanks to the weightless sensation and perfectly even support experienced by your body.

Blood circulation in the vital areas of your body is not affected or interrupted.

The "pressure points" and bruising of the blood vessels which can occur when you are fast asleep on a normal mattress are a signal to your body telling it to shift position, thereby forcing you out of the deep sleep phase which is so essential for your health, vitality and enjoyment of life! A TASSO bed simply does not allow these kind of pressure points to emerge and ensures that your blood can circulate freely.

Conventional mattresses cause congested blood vessels in the key areas of your body such as your hips, shoulders and heels which forces your body to shift position numerous times during the night. This means that the deep sleep phases are interrupted and your body's production of the STH regeneration and growth hormone is reduced.

Relaxation

Heat is given, not taken away

In addition to the obvious advantages of the sensation of weightlessness when lying on a TASSO waterbed and the perfectly even support it provides, there is yet another reason to buy a TASSO bed: heat is given, not taken away.

1. Regeneration

2. Relaxation

3. Hygiene

Our innovative waterbeds warm and relax your body; the temperature controlled mattresses provide your body with the even and gentle level of warmth it requires to enable your muscles to relax. Your muscles can recuperate and your nerves can unwind.

That is how a TASSO mattress helps you to achieve a regenerative and therapeutic style of sleeping.

When you sleep your nervous system switches off, allowing your muscles and limbs a chance to relax and recuperate.

The TAS KA³ ceramic heating system is the safest and most modern waterbed heating element in the "Made in Germany" range, using an internationally patented ceramic heat dispenser based on space research. An intelligent high-tech heating system with a five year warranty, approved by the German Technical Inspection Association (GS TÜV).

Scientific Basics

Before there were waterbeds -- now there are TASSO beds. All thanks to new scientific progress made by the Vontana® Sleep Research Department.

In the past people simply tended to believe in a vague waterbed ideology; nowadays we know a lot more thanks to our Sleep Research Department. Working together with a variety of scientific institutes and universities, we have been able to provide key concepts with a solid factual basis and painstakingly transform these ideas into manufacturing realities: achieving exactly the right cut to prevent the "hammock effect".

Mattress surfaces which create a pressure greater than 28mm Hg cause blockages in blood flow and force people to constantly shift position during the night.

Mattress surfaces which create a pressure substantially lower than 28 mm Hg guarantee longer-lasting deep sleep phases which in turn allow your body to increase production of the STH regeneration hormone (somatotrophin H.).

Wave motion control systems which allow the water to continue doing its job: supporting your body in the most natural way possible.

Textile covers which breathe instead of perspiring.

Environmentally-sound water conditioners.

Heating systems which do not create electrical radiation fields.

We have created a genuine orthopedic mattress which can make life more comfortable for those people who suffer from back pain, estimated as a third of the population.

Making the lives of pregnant women easier, designing baby crib mattresses which allow the body to develop as it should and providing the best in emergency baby units for premature babies. Putting a stop to allergies and creating the kind of household hygiene which has never been seen before.

Combating the problem of snoring.

Opening new horizons in professional sport and athletics.

Heating systems which do not create electrical radiation fields.

Releasing people from stress.

Creating whole new sensations in the lives of handicapped and seriously handicapped people with the help of the Prenatal Room in the field of rehabilitation.

In short: the consistent transformation of knowledge into a product which can decisively and significantly improve the quality of life for every individual. Looking back we can see it is a small but important difference. Not all waterbeds are the same.

Back Problems

Why choose a TASSO bed?

"Three days away from my waterbed and I feel the old back pains coming back again".

TASSO beds are extremely helpful in treating back pain. They enable patients to sleep in a comfortable and relaxed position

and provide them with a perfectly even level of support. This ensures that all the different parts of the body are supported equally, in particular providing much-needed support for the hollows in the neck and loin areas and the legs.

TASSO beds provide relief for your back, giving your back muscles the opportunity to relax whilst you are sleeping. Doctors have confirmed that the additional warmth provided by a waterbed further aids this relaxation process and serves to promote healthy blood circulation. Your entire body including any stressed areas is able to recuperate properly.

Back pains can be divided into two groups:

Acute Back Pains

This type of back pain is a result of strains to muscles and bone structures which occur in cases of bone fracture and inflammation. The problem of acute back pain has increased recently, especially among "casual weekend athletes" and those people who perform unusual types of manual work.

Chronic Back Pains

This is a more complex type of complaint. It is frequently observed in illnesses such as arthritis, osteoarthritis, curvature of the back or slipped or damaged discs and in those people suffering from a lack of bone minerals. It can also occur in those people who are extremely overweight or who have poor posture.

Exercises to help muscles to relax: strengthening the back muscles can also help to reduce the pain. In many cases it is necessary to consult a physiotherapist or chiropractor. Many doctors prescribe heat treatment, massage and stretching exercises to help relieve the pain. Other doctors favor analgesia or prescribe sedatives to help muscles relax.

Heat

Heat treatment is a tried and tested method of relaxing the muscles and relieving pain in those people who suffer back pain. Many doctors recommend warm baths or electric heat pads. Hospitals offer a range of different types of heat treatment.

Hygiene

No breeding grounds for mites!

Huge colonies of mites live and breed in the cavities of conventional mattresses, feeding on bodily secretions such as dead skin and perspiration.

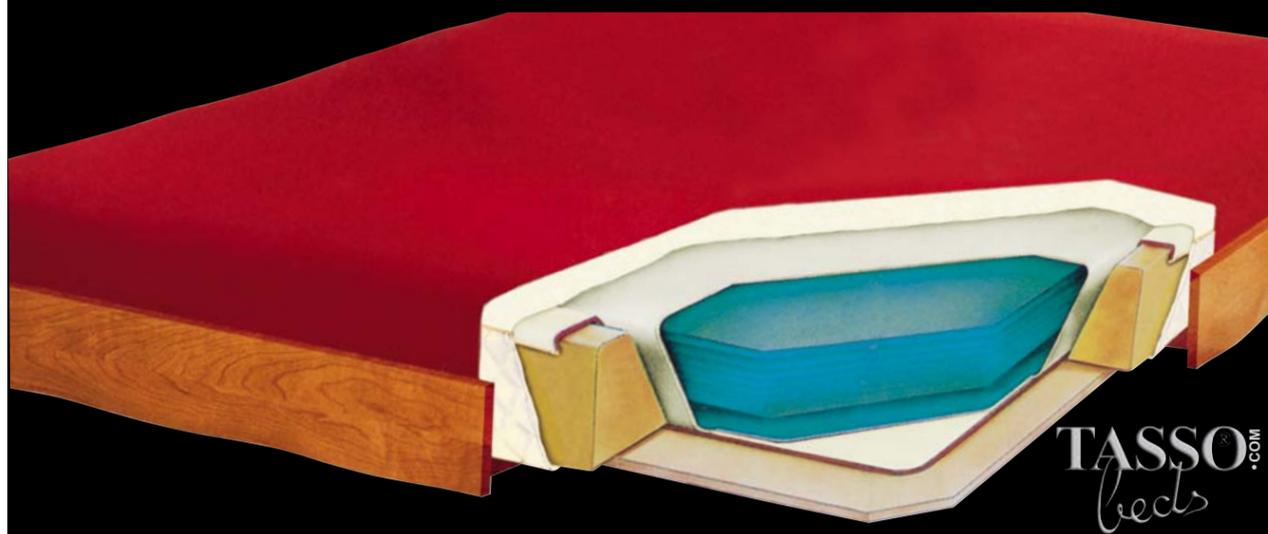
The droppings of these mites are known to be one of the main causes of allergies. Every time that we change position in bed, allergenic mite droppings are puffed out into the air as clouds of gray household dust which then settles in carpets, fabrics, wardrobes etc..

TASSO Beds offer unbeatable levels of hygiene.

Perspiration and dirt are unable to penetrate the body of the mattress. No mite breeding grounds or mold can appear. Perspiration from our bodies evaporates into the air as the heat rises.

The fabric cover can be removed and dry cleaned or washed at high temperatures. It is also available in two separable parts. The water mattress itself is surface washable. The freshness of the water is maintained by adding biologically-degradable conditioner once a year.

Secrets of the most successful SoftSide made in Germany kept



Warming up and cooling down

The human body requires an even level of warmth similar to that which it generates itself in order to relax the muscles and relieve all sorts of aches and pains.

Why choose a TASSO bed?

Our new generation of waterbeds can be adjusted to "human" temperatures, allowing them to provide a cozy haven from daily stress. However, it is still easy to cool down a certain part of the body (to help with varicose veins, for example) by placing a cooling water pad under the affected area. The pad will simply be "absorbed" into the mattress surface.

Insomnia

Sleep is the gas station of life! We spend a third of our lives filling up.

Why choose a TASSO bed?

"It really helps me get to sleep".

TASSO beds make a significant contribution to helping you get a good night's sleep. When we are asleep, our body temperature goes down. A cold, conventional mattress can push body temperature even lower. TASSO beds are helping to change all that. They guarantee a stable, gentle and body-oriented level of heat over the whole area on which we are sleeping.

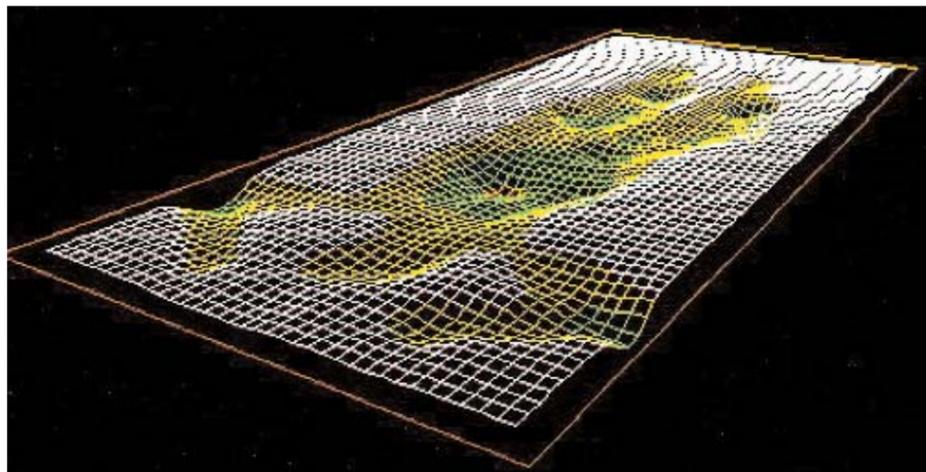
It is especially easy to see how much longer babies can stay asleep with this system - a fact which contributes to an improvement in their overall physical development.

Sleep is an essential element in helping us to stay in good health and maintain our quality of life. It is common knowledge that many known sleep disorders can be cleared up by good medical treatment and a change in lifestyle and sleep habits; also that "good sleep" normally results in complete relaxation with reduced digestive activity and increased muscle recuperation. From a biological perspective, sleep is a fundamental necessity for maintaining health and energy. That's why sleep is the gas station of life!

Sleep Disorders

Round about 30 % of the population suffer from sleep problems of one type or another. These include problems getting to sleep, waking up during the night or waking up too early in the morning.

Tired muscles at the end of the day help to ensure a good night's sleep, but the ever-decreasing amount of physical labor in our society means that this factor is often missing. A Tasso bed can be seen as an excellent alternative solution in terms of clearing up sleep problems. The beds boast a whole range of innovative characteristics which effectively contribute towards greater relaxation. Medical studies have demonstrated that Tasso beds have an important role to play in helping people to achieve better sleeping habits more quickly and easily. Clear improvements are seen in how easi-



ly a person gets to sleep, the length of time they sleep and the number of times they wake up during the night.

The STH regeneration hormone is only generated in deep sleep phases

Shifting position when you are asleep interrupts production of the regeneration hormone.

The regeneration and growth hormone (the STH somatotropin hormone) is generated almost exclusively in the deep sleep phase.

In other words, the deep sleep phase is the primary source of the growth hormone which is essential for the processes of regeneration and recovery from everyday stress and for building up athletes' muscles -- a growth hormone which is even then only produced in reduced quantities in adults.

Good waterbeds have been shown to offer extremely long-lasting deep sleep phases in comparison with conventional sleeping systems. They distribute the pressure created by the weight of your body evenly, meaning that is no longer necessary to constantly shift position during the night (and they ensure that blood circulation in the key areas of the body is not interrupted or disturbed in any way).

However, not all waterbeds are capable of offering these advantages; it is all very much dependent on achieving the correct relationship between the fill level, the cut of the water bladder and the design of the frame and furnishings.

The reason that your body has to shift position so much when you sleep on a conventional mattress is that tissues are being crushed and compressed in the key supporting points of your body, such as your hips and shoulders. This results in the constant interruption of deep sleep phases which in turn means that your body produces less of the STH growth hormone required for regeneration.

A visible sign of the disturbances in blood flow caused by the use of conventional mattresses instead of waterbeds is the

condition known in the medical profession as decubitus (better known as bedsores) often observed in patients confined to bed for long periods of time.

Measured increase in performance

An improvement in the ability of athletes to regenerate and recuperate as a consequence of sleeping and resting on

good waterbeds.

In this pilot study, scientists trained in performance physiology were able to demonstrate significant improvements in the regenerative capabilities of an athlete's leg muscles as a result of sleeping on a good waterbed instead of a conventional mattress.

Measurements were taken from three marathon runners during their training in the three-week study.

During the first week, the athletes slept on their normal mattresses. In the second week, they were given the chance to get used to their new waterbeds. Finally, in the third week, the runners were subjected to the same training program under the same conditions as in the first week with the only difference being that they rested and slept on waterbeds.

The aerobic tests were performed under the same kind of conditions which are applied in the German Association of Track and Field Athletics..

The scientists documented three significant improvements to the athletes' performance as a result of resting and sleeping on waterbeds:

1. Improved micro-circulation of the external skin layers

On the basis of the recorded data for urea, CK values and I/t curves, we can assume that this also applied to the deeper layers of tissue. The improved circulation of the blood resulted in clearly superior regenerative capacity.

2. Promotion of systematic physical relaxation and deep sleep
The measurements taken of heartbeat frequency provided an important indication that the athletes were sleeping more soundly. Their deep sleep phases lasted longer, allowing their bodies to generate more of the vital growth hormones which are a factor in boosting the ability to recuperate and regenerate.

3. Reduction in high blood pressure

Athlete No. 1 had long suffered from high blood pressure which was set at 150/90 with 10 mg of Adalat. The values measured in the first week corresponded to expectations based on this condition. However, in the third week of the tests, the systolic pressure fell constantly to reach a level of 125 mm Hg in.

So what conclusions can be drawn from this? Basically, it shows that in addition to the subjective improvements in well-being observed in the athletes, it was also possible to achieve improved relaxation in the muscles and reduced damage to the muscle membranes. This research study is available at no cost from the WBN.



TASSO & NASA

A German "Sleep well!" for Outer Space.

The New Sleeping System for Space designed in Munich and Oer-Erkenschwick

The first experiments in simulated weightlessness carried out by scientists and the manufacturer at the NASA Center in Houston, Texas, at the end of October 1999 were awarded the grade 6.5 out of 7 as the best in class.

Prof. Dr. Eduard Igenbergs, who holds the Chair of Space Technology, and Prof Richard Horden, who holds the Chair of Architecture at the Munich Technical University, made quite an impression at NASA in the spring with their developmental work on space habitation units. They consolidated their work by founding the "MUNICH Space Design Group". Thomas Dirlich led the successful efforts to transform the TASSO SpaceBed concept into reality. Thanks to their position as the worldwide leading manufacturer of waterbed and regeneration systems, the Vontana Corporation was able to harness their comprehensive in-house production expertise along with their substantial stock of scientific knowledge which is based on their ground-breaking research into aspects of sleep and regeneration in order to produce the SpaceBed. The first test of this innovative design under weightless conditions was seen as a great success - even from the critical perspective of the astronauts.

The physiological success of TASSO beds - a new generation of waterbeds on Earth - can be traced back to the key characteristic of attempting to create the most weightless sensation possible when lying on a bed; the concept of providing perfectly even support to the body and achieving hitherto unattainable results in the fields of regeneration, sleep medicine and the orthopedic aspects of sleep. Attempts to achieve weightlessness in situations involving lying down on earth (based on the concept of the unborn child in the mother's womb) resulted naturally in an examination of the inverse side of this topic, i.e. looking at solutions for the problems inherent in sleeping under weightless conditions in space. This brought the Munich scientists into contact with the TASSO Sleep Group and the associated Institute for Sleep Medicine and Interdisciplinary Sleep Research (ISIS, Munster).

An analysis of the current technology regarding sleeping in space and the particular problems which it poses confirmed how these are generically related to the objectives of the German manufacturers, who were quickly able to offer a range of practical solutions. As reported by Dr Rosenberg from the ISIS, NASA had up till that point carried out virtually no research into regenerative sleep in space. The objectives were, firstly, to continue ensuring that astronauts were protected and secured against the dangers of floating around during their vital rest phases and, secondly, to achieve the generally acknowledged elements of sleep such as feeling, pressure, comfort, positioning of the spine etc.. Seen from the perspectives of sleep medicine and physiology, the aim was to create a sensation of corporeality (with gentle pressure), well-being and relaxation and achieve correct orthopedic support of the individual body shapes. The purpose of all this was to make the eight hours prescribed for sleeping situations in space into a genuine human "filling station" to boost energy and performance.

The Munich Technical University was able to point to experience and references spanning many years based around their Chair in Space Technology held at that time by Johann Huber, who was responsible for the German team of scientists in Houston and who founded the Munich Space Chair 15 years ago.

Impressive efforts and personal commitment on the part of the manufacturer were shown by Tasso Schielke, an industrial designer and pilot who developed and gave his name to the TASSO Sleep products. His many years of experience in the field were essential in ensuring the success of the SpaceBed.

The next step in 2002 included successful TASSO beds for the astronauts' training camp and the creation of sleep systems for the BioPlex program. A sealed biological system for the first station on Mars which NASA and European scientists are developing for trainings in the deserts of Utah.



STATEMENTS from the scientific community

Dr. Nigel Packham, NASA

"from the NASA site we're extremely impressed, from what we have seen."



Dr. med Gabi Zell

"Even pressure distribution spread over the entire area of the mattress where your body is supported has two advantages: firstly, it allows better blood circulation in the skin and the tissue below this - that results in longer deep sleep phases and improved muscle relaxation; secondly, it provides an even level of support to your spine - that means that you are taking better care of your intervertebral discs". "The increase in allergies is a significant problem in today's world. Many people suffer from over-sensitivity towards household dust mites. Specialists in the field frequently recommend that people remove all upholstered furniture and similar items, seemingly forgetting that the conventional mattress is one of the main breeding grounds of the house mite. This is where a waterbed can offer such critical advantages in terms of hygiene. A



waterbed allows us to create an environment for a person suffering from allergies which is as free as possible from the allergens which cause the problem".

"The crib water mattress is perfect for babies. Much of the damage to our spines occurs when we are still very young and it could simply be avoided if we were to lay small children on good water mattresses. This would also serve to stimulate a child's sense of balance which is one of the earliest senses which we develop when we are still in the womb. All primitive peoples and in fact all mothers instinctively rock their babies for precisely this reason. We know of one large-scale American research study which conclusively demonstrated the advantages of using waterbeds for premature babies. The babies which were placed on water mattresses developed substantially better and with far fewer problems than those babies placed on conventional mattresses".

Prof. Dr. Klaus Nicol

"One of the problems of lying down is that this causes pressure to be exerted on the skin -- this pressure should not exceed certain limits. That's the basic problem of most of the con-



ventional hard mattresses. They cause these pressure values to be pushed to almost criminal limits. The very nature of a waterbed mattress prevents this from happening".

"It is nonsense to continue with the belief that was preached up until recently that hard mattresses are healthy. This opinion was based on the ill-considered idea that we could simply transfer the conditions of the types of bed surface used for hospitalized patients who had suffered a slipped disc. However, the way in which these patients lie in hospital is completely different to the situation we have at home -- that's why hard mattresses cannot be recommended for normal home use".

"We evaluate mattresses on the basis of whether they exert a low level of pressure on the skin and whether they provide enough support to the spine. To fulfill these two criteria a mattress must demonstrate great elasticity at all points -- water is, by its very nature, perfectly suited to achieve a high score in these two categories".

"The old American waterbeds were based on a significant error: manufacturers were so worried about a mattress splitting that they chose to stretch a very thick rubber skin over the water purely for safety reasons. The result of this was that people were really sleeping on a hard rubber skin rather than sleeping on water. Eventually people worked out this problem and the waterbeds which you see in the stores today have a rubber skin which is extremely flexible". "And as long as you make sure that the type of material which you choose for the mattress doesn't create any kind of hammock effect, then you can expect the waterbed to exert very little pressure on the body but nevertheless to provide a high level of support to the parts of the body which come into contact with it".

Dr. Heidi Schewe

"With the hard mattresses, which were frequently recommended to people who had back problems, we see that there is a great deal of muscle activity. The reason for this is that the hard mattress is very firm and does not adapt itself to the shape of your body -- this is why your spine starts to hurt and your muscles then have to work even harder to balance out these pains. And if the muscles are working to cancel out this type of pain, then you are not getting the key thing which sleep is supposed to give you, which is relaxation".

Prof. Dr. Bram van Dam

"When choosing a water mattress, you have to remember that not every water mattress is a good or useful one. A lot depends on the manufacturing techniques used on the surface and also on the cut of the liner and the technological know-how -- all of this determines how good the water mattress is. A good water mattress provides all the elements we need to provide successful therapeutic treatment".



"Professional athletes - such as, for example, players in the Borussia Dortmund soccer team - must be allowed to have intensive phases of relaxation and regeneration after they have been through phases of intensive activity. This is where we benefit most from the advantages of a good water mattress which allows the players to recover and regenerate in the shortest time possible. So they are rested and ready for the next round of intensive action!".

TASSO SPORT

Regeneration System

Activates the metabolic system
Increases the body's production of hormones
Relieves cramped muscles and improves motor activity
Reduces muscle pain
Shortens recovery time after periods of intensive activity
Helps the body to top up its energy store
Accelerates muscular regeneration

A system to substantially reduce recovery time for Athletes

Only by unleashing your full mental and physical performance potential can you be sure of overcoming the professional and athletic challenges you face. Athletic achievements can be diminished if you lack stamina, are prone to injuries or find that your muscles quickly become tired.

Many athletes attempt to improve their physical performance by using vitamins, mineral drinks, plant extracts and combinations of active substances.

Not many of them know, however, that the key to higher performance is to be found in the deep sleep phases during the night and the total relaxation of the body shortly before it is expected to perform. The only way an organism can achieve the free blood circulation required to build up muscles is through the optimal relaxation provided by the combination of warmth and a pressure-free surface.

Sleep is by far the most important element in terms of regenerating your body, especially the phases of deep sleep. Conventional mattresses are simply no longer enough.

The TASSO Sport System - helping you to achieve maximum levels of regeneration!

A measured improvement in performance!

An improvement in athletes' ability to regenerate and recover as a consequence of sleeping and recuperating on a good waterbed.

In a pilot study, scientists verified substantial improvements in the abilities of the leg muscles to regenerate as a consequence of sleeping on a good waterbed instead of a conventional mattress.

Measurements were taken from three marathon runners during their training in the three-week study. During the first week, the athletes slept on their normal mattresses. In the second week, they were given the chance to get used to their new waterbeds. Finally, in the third week, the runners were subjected to the same training program under the same conditions as in the first week with the only difference being that they rested and slept on waterbeds.

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So what conclusions can be drawn from this? Basically, it demonstrates that, in addition to the subjective improvements in well-being observed in the athletes, it is also possible to achieve improved relaxation in the muscles and reduced damage to the muscle membranes.

Lisa Fitz

All-round performer and show presenter. Lisa Fitz, the confident superstar and presenter from Munich, claims to be "totally satisfied" with her experiences of sleeping on water since 1996.

Marco Jakobs

Olympic medal winner in 1998 and 2000 in the four-man bobsleigh event. 1998

German champion in the two-man bobsleigh event. "The improvement in performance which allowed me to become the world champion can definitely be traced back to the improved levels of regeneration and recuperation provided by my new waterbed!"

Heiko Wasser (right), the Formula One commentator for the German television station RTL, in conversation with Mika Haekinnen. A huge fan of TASSO waterbeds based on his own personal experiences.



Armin Eichholz

Olympic Gold and world champion misses his Tassobed very much being on training camps.



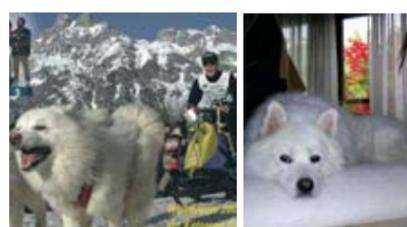
Pit Beirer

Motocross world champion and one of the top 100 sportsmen of all times. "I knew what a Tassobed did good to me before my accident. But being paralyzed without it would be a disaster. Pour guys who don't know about it."



Stefan Meinhard,

world champion in dogsled racing. "The benefits of a Tassobed for my own physical conditions is enormous. And also unbelievably the effects of Tasso-Dogybeds to my Dogs."



Rheumatism and Arthritis

Arthritis and the TASSO Bed

The fact that a TASSO bed provides an even distribution of body weight can be extremely helpful for the majority of arthritis sufferers. An even distribution of body weight reduces the pressure on the sensitive parts of the body which are affected by arthritis. The warmth of a TASSO bed stimulates blood circulation, thereby encouraging the healing process and relieving pain. In contrast, a normal mattress reduces your body temperature. If a cooling effect is required, heat pads filled with cold water can be placed under the desired part of the body. The majority of arthritis sufferers find that pain is generally at its worst in the early hours of the morning. This is due to the fact that the sleeping conditions are inappropriate and that hormones which help to prevent inflammation are inactive.

Why choose a TASSO bed?

Limbs affected by arthritis are swollen and painful. They need to be protected from unnecessary pressure and strain. Poor posture when sitting or lying down can put additional strain on the affected areas. It is important to protect these areas from any abnormal muscle tension and cramps in order to prevent deformity. The even distribution of pressure provided by a TASSO bed allows blood to flow freely to all the different parts of the body. Blood circulation is further improved by the heat in a TASSO bed. Rheumatism and arthritis are two of the oldest medical conditions known to man. They can occur at any time of life, from childhood to old age.

Medical studies have shown that over 90 percent of all those people over 50 years old suffer from some form of arthritis. These figures have been confirmed through the use of x-rays. This is why many doctors describe arthritis as the most serious crippling illness.



What is arthritis?

Arthritis is an inflammation of the joints which causes pain and difficulties in moving. There are, of course, many different types and stages of arthritis. The most important of these are:

Rheumatic arthritis:

This is the most common type of arthritis and also the most dangerous. It involves the chronic inflammation of a joint in the body and can come and go without warning.

Osteoarthritis:

This is a condition of the joints caused by years of wear. It mostly occurs in elderly people and affects the cartilage and bones of the joints. This condition is generally less serious and rarely leads to inflammation. However, there are some patients who suffer from a more painful form of osteoarthritis which requires medical treatment.

Ankylosing Spondylitis :

This is a chronic form of arthritis of the spine which causes inflammation and progressively worsens. It generally appears in younger people around the age of 20.

Gout (gout arthritis):

This illness generally affects a specific joint. It can lead to inflammation in virtually any joint but is frequently found in the big toe. This condition is more common in men and can be extremely painful. The only method of tackling the pain generally involves a special diet and prescribed medication for the rest of the person's life.

Sciatica:

Nerve pain in the buttocks area which can be significantly alleviated by the even pressure distribution and warmth of a TASSO waterbed.

Treatment

There is currently no way of completely curing these conditions. They require the use of all available therapeutic means to prevent deformities and crippling. A full program of treatment can involve the following:

- anti-inflammatory medication
- a program of rest and recuperation
- gentle physical exercise
- heat treatment
- ultrasound therapy
- exercises to improve posture
- work and movement aids
- special diets
- operations

Most treatment can be carried out at home, though in more serious cases the patient must be treated in a hospital.

Rest and exercising: the doctor and the patient must work to achieve the correct balance between rest and exercise in the acute stages of the illness. In diminishing stages of the condition an increase in physical exercise is recommended in order to keep the joints flexible and strengthen the muscles.

Choosing the right bed is an essential component in relieving inflammation. A poor sleeping position puts additional strain on the joints and can cause uncomfortable stiffness in the affected body parts.

BABY WATERBEDS

What could be more natural than laying human beings - and in particular their delicate new-born babies - on the very element from which they came and of which they are made: warm water. A deep and regenerating sleep can only be achieved through total physical support.

Conventional mattresses support your body weight on the extremities. This creates pressure on your shoulders, chest, hips and heels. To relieve these pressure points, a human being shifts position on a conventional mattress anywhere between thirty and fifty times a night, repeatedly interrupting deep sleep phases. Unfortunately, the STH growth hormone is produced almost exclusively in these deep sleep phases - a hormone which simultaneously acts as the regeneration hormone for adults, working to top up their energy reserves. For a baby, a mattress which is not capable of providing the proper level of gentle and even support actually runs the risk of causing deformities - especially as small babies do not have the control over their bodies which would allow them to shift position frequently.

In 1986, the specialist magazine "The Pediatrician" ("Der Kinderarzt") printed a report on a research study spanning several years by the pediatrician Dr. Lübke which focused on the multiple types of physical damage caused by unsuitable mattresses, mostly ones which were too hard. The international press has repeatedly focused on the connection between sudden cot death (SIDS) and false positioning of the baby. In the seventies, we were advised to lay babies on their belly to increase their mobility. This even led to the development of baby-buggies with a viewing window designed for a baby lying face-down. In this same period, there was a massive increase in the number of sudden cot deaths worldwide. These were assumed to result from the fact that laying a baby face-down effectively covers up the only unclothed actively breathable skin surface, i.e. the face. Current press reports describe how the subsequent fear of sudden cot death is now leading people to place babies in an alternative, but equally unsuitable, position: lying on their backs. This can create a range of orthopedic problems such as scoliosis (curvature of the spine) and the so-called torticollis (wry-neck). In addition, a series of other ailments have been observed ranging from motion disorders to skull deformities. In conclusion, placing a baby on its back leads to

malformed growth and a damaged spine and placing a baby in the belly position increases the risk of SIDS.

A research study carried out between 1985 and 1987 showed that cases of SIDS are reduced when water beds are used instead of conventional mattresses. Even in the prone position, the danger of suffocation which can be increased by cushions and blankets is reduced by the more yielding surface of a water bed which diminishes counter-pressure. Equally, lying on your back on a water bed is nowadays recommended by any well-informed orthopedist and most people who suffer from back pain. This is because it provides an even level of support for the entire body - it manages to be as hard as stone and yet simultaneously as soft as a cloud.

Unbeatable advantages for health and hygiene

Your own bed is the invisible enemy when it comes to your health". Bodily secretions and fluids combined with a mixture of dust and dirt are the ideal breeding ground for mites, whose droppings cause illnesses. However, this is not the only problem: mattresses, especially those used by children, are increasingly recognized to be a hot bed for a whole range of additional factors which can cause disease, ranging from bacteria right through to maggots and mould. A TASSO water bed solves these problems in the simplest and most intelligent way:

The water bladder does not collect any kind of dirt.

The surface of the water bladder can be washed.

The fabric cover can be washed at high or normal temperatures or dry-cleaned, depending on the model.

It doesn't get anymore hygienic than that!

Temperature Control System

A fully-filled water bed can only provide exceptional levels of comfort with a temperature controlled water bladder. A possible exception to this rule is the TASSO baby waterbed: this can optionally be used without heating since it contains a far smaller quantity of water (30 liters) and is covered by padding and insulation materials. When the room temperature is low or the baby is only lightly clothed, however, we recommend the use of a baby-style temperature control system. A 12 volt system with a mains plug and 18 watts of power - roughly corresponding to a car brakelight bulb - is harmless even if it were to be bitten through! Tested and approved by the German Technical Inspection

Association (GS-TÜV) and fitted with its own individual timer. Tests carried out over a long period of time show that the temperature at the surface of the mattress does not exceed skin temperature even after extended operating times.

Baby Safety Liner

The baby safety liner is an extremely robust fabric covering which is fitted over the entire foam bolster and sealed by means of a zipper at the foot or the head of the bed.

TASSO Baby Waterbeds

reduce the time it takes to fall asleep reduce restlessness when asleep help to improve blood circulation promote general physical development and the production of the STH growth hormone provide unbeatable advantages in terms of health and hygiene help to prevent physical deformities and reduce dangers. May be fitted in any baby bed frame

For bed sizes 140 x 70 cm or 120 x 60 cm, 12 cm high

Water content approx. 30 liters

From the world of science

The use of waterbeds in caring for premature babies

Particular advantages for small children

study

St. Lukas Klinik, Solingen

We received the following interesting report from a manufacturer concerning the gynecological-obstetrics department of the St Lukas Clinic in Solingen run by head doctor Professor K. Meinen.

A report detailing our experiences using water mattresses in thermal bed units for new-born babies in the clinic over a one-year period.

This does not yet represent a long-term experiment in the true sense of the word, but it is at least another step on the path towards acknowledging the therapeutic effects of waterbeds. Unfortunately, the experiment did not involve the use of full-depth baby waterbeds. The clinic management team instead asked a German manufacturer of waterbeds to construct special overlay pads for the clinic's own thermal bed units. As chance would have it, however, some of the company's high-tech experience could be brought into play. One of the traditional thermal units was only saved and made usable again thanks to the proven waterbed technology -- it passed the test with flying colors.

Prof. Dr. Meinen reports:

This series of tests was carried out as a result of a joint discussion concerning experiences in using water mattresses for children and for those people confined to bed for long periods of time. The aim was to observe the results of using water mattresses in caring for babies - especially those born prematurely - under the conceptual heading "out of water, on to water". For the purposes of this experiment, water mattresses in the appropriate sizes were delivered free of charge to the St. Lukas Clinic to be used in the thermal baby units. Due to a malfunction in the existing heating system, one of the beds was also fitted with an 18 watt Vontana waterbed heating device (mains powered).

This report only gives observation data since no test series has yet been performed on the basis of a specific set theory and defined measuring technique. The statements reproduced below represent a summary of conversations held with the nurses on duty, including the night watch.

Technical Observations:

The water mattresses and heating devices were assessed by the medical technicians in the clinic and approved for on-site operation. The mattress used was a single chamber water mattress with an additional protective cover and standard fill valves. The manufacturer claims to have used the same construction method as with their adult waterbeds. The water mattresses were filled to a level which ensured that the weight of a baby placed on the mattress did not

compress the mattress to an extent where the base was touched.

Temperature measurements were carried out on exposed parts of the water mattress, on the covered bed and under the bedclothes. These results showed an exceptionally homogenous heat distribution and it was possible to reduce heat usage in places.

No overheating was observed under the bed covers- bedclothes do not therefore seem to have an impact on the temperature control system of a waterbed. Due to the improvised arrangements in terms of size and the necessity of matching the water mattresses to the thermal bed units, the task of covering the beds and keeping them clean was costly but caused no difficulties: the nurse responsible for hygiene issues raised no objections.

Observations during use:

Heat distribution is good, a positive result is observed with no overheating. On hot summer days it is, however, occasionally necessary to avoid completely covering the children. The children can be laid on their backs or supported on their sides (additional bolster roll). Depending on the fill level of the water mattress, the children can also be positioned on their bellies without blocking breathing access.

It is possible to lay two children down next to each other: even weight differences can be balanced out. Heat production and distribution is also sufficient for two children. No deformities were seen to be caused by how the children were positioned - however, these had also not been observed previously in the department. A conspicuous factor is how quickly the children can be calmed down. Even highly excitable children (nicotine abuse by the mother) fall asleep quicker than in a normal bed.

Causing a child to move by pressing down on the water mattress without actually touching the child creates a gentle rocking effect which generally serves to calm the child.

The effects described apply regardless as to the weight of the child.

Conclusion:

We can only speculate as to the extent to which the described effects can be traced back to the baby's memories of the intra-uterine situation (development in amniotic fluids) - we can however draw some general conclusions (cf. relevant publications).

Overall the experiment had positive results. The night nurses in particular felt helped by the fact that highly excitable children could be calmed down more quickly.

Joint development still needs to be carried out by companies who make baby cribs and thermal bed units in order to improve the handling and organizing of the beds.

The question as to a potential further use of heating lamps and lighting elements within the framework of phototherapy is yet to be discussed.

It would also make sense to define a status (spastics, deformities, etc.) in which targeted therapy and observation could be performed. It will, however, only be possible to establish this in main centers.

Further potential lies in the development of a "normal" baby and child's crib with a water mattress. The technical implementation (heating, energy supply) would need particular attention here, especially concerning use in a clinical environment.

Prof. Dr. med. K. Meinen

Th. Kalisch, Assistant Doctor



Senior citizens

can be affected by a variety of different aches and pains, but some symptoms are especially typical of older people. A typical example is a reduction in the strength of the bone structure, often as a result of mineral loss from the bones, also known as osteoporosis. Another example is extreme weight loss caused by poor nutrition and an unbalanced diet. Problems with blood circulation are common and some older people may already have suffered a heart attack which could have impaired their concentration and their mental and physical faculties.

Why choose a TASSO bed?

Apart from all the more general advantages, a TASSO bed also serves to provide older people with the support they need, whilst enabling sufficient freedom of movement, stabilizing blood circulation and stimulating digestion. It also plays an important role in preventing inflammation of the urinal tract and promotes the cleansing of the kidneys.

In cases where an older person is confined to bed and requires special care, the new generation of TASSO waterbeds have proved themselves to be extremely helpful in providing increased comfort for the patient and simultaneously reducing expenditure in terms of nursing staff. In comparison, conventional mattresses provide no particular benefits, since they do not provide even support for all the parts of the body and thus tend to burden the supporting parts with additional pressure. This results in the patient's tissue being squeezed together which causes interruptions to the all-important flow of blood around the body. If this is allowed to continue over a long period of time, then the tissue cells die off and bed sores appear. The patient must be moved every two hours in order to remove pressure from these supporting points and to enable the blood to flow through these tissue areas.

TASSO waterbeds from Vontana replace this constant need to shift position with a weightless sensation for the whole body, ensuring that the critical parts of the body do not turn into pressure points. The patient is supported evenly. This sensation of being supported is obviously also highly beneficial for orthopedic problems such as the pains which can be caused by a hip operation or arthritis. The gentle motion and warmth of a TASSO bed promotes relaxation and sleep as well as the healthy flow of blood around the body. This means less medication and a higher standard of living.

The Prenatal Room:

The link to pre-birth experiences and impressions.

A highly successful and innovative waterbed development which opens up a wealth of potential applications in the fields of relaxation and therapy. New scientific studies on the development of the unborn child have clearly shown that the course of a person's life is heavily determined in the prenatal stage. The personality of a child begins to emerge even during pregnancy, where it is influenced by the signals and messages which the unborn child receives from its mother and the outside world.

One German waterbed manufacturer has spent decades combining this research with their general enthusiasm for the social applications of waterbeds in order to create the Prenatal Room.

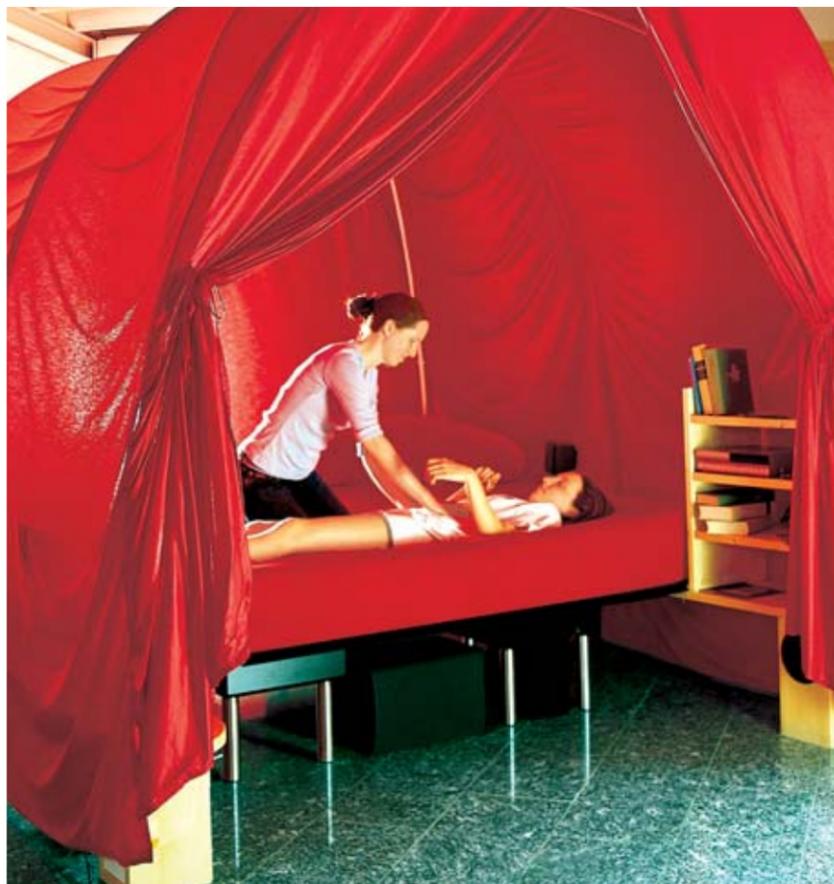
Their primary objective has been to create an atmosphere in which patients, or simply people seeking relaxation, can feel comfortable and at peace. Relaxation and sensual experiences promote health and well-being and are the essential prerequisites for the successful treatment of a variety of mental and physical developmental disorders and handicaps.

The pleasantly relaxed atmosphere which a good, heated waterbed creates

is not the only essential component of the Prenatal Room. It also includes a specially developed sound system which allows users to experience music, heartbeats or indeed any other acoustic elements through both vibratory and auditory channels. This opens up a whole range of potential therapeutic applications.

The water acts as a sound conductor by changing the oscillations into vibrations which allows them to be felt by the entire body.

For the first time, a physical massage can be given through the medium of sound. The therapeutic effect is based on this combination of wave motion, comfortable warmth and the sensual experience of the vibrations. The Prenatal Room is the perfect tool for movement therapy applications. Physically handicapped people are also able to independently generate their own wave motion, allowing them to discover new physical sensations for themselves. The pleasant level of warmth increases the sensation of being safe and cozy and the use of music and sounds (heartbeats, minimalist compositions, etc.) can have a profoundly calming effect. Music designed to activate or stimulate can be experienced even more intensely. The increasing significance of music therapy is largely based on current successful applications in working with handicapped people.



Double the Life expectancy at Half the Price

A new generation of waterbed conditioners with significant advantages in terms of the life expectancy of the mattress, decreased air bubble formation and environmental harmony.

Carry out this simple test to judge for yourself: Hang one strip of waterbed material in a bottle of the new conditioner and a second strip in a bottle of any other conditioner. After a few weeks you will see how the strip in the bottle of standard conditioner has gone hard and brittle, while the strip in the new-formula conditioner has stayed soft and supple. Ever-increasing environmental and technical demands in water technology have encouraged the scientific and experience-based development of a new generation of biocides over the last 10 years. The new "polymer" ammonium blends may be more expensive, but they offer significant advantages over the previously popular "monomer" blends.

The transfer of these advantages to a new generation of waterbeds marks an important step forward in the continued development and improvement of modern waterbeds. This is because the quality of the waterbed filling (i.e. the water and conditioner) plays a vital role in determining the normal life expectancy of the water mattress materials. Theoretically this development could more than double the life of a water bladder. This means that the purchase price would effectively be more than halved. But this is not the only problem area which is tackled more effectively – the issues of air pocket formation and waste disposal can also benefit.

Life expectancy of the mattress material:

Conventional, monomer conditioning fluids foam and reduce the surface tension of water in a similar way to soap or Tenside. They are surface-active, meaning that they interact with the vinyl and in this way support a transition to the softening agents. They wash out the softening agents, just as soapy water washes grease from your hands, or the way a washing-up liquid is used to clean pots and pans etc.. We all know that, in contrast, "neutral" water does not attack grease in the same way. The new polymer conditioning fluid is based on this "neutral" principle. It is non-alkaline and

is not comparable with soap or Tenside. It has no hydrophobic properties and does not therefore wash out the softening agents; instead, it is neutral and can contribute to a longer water mattress lifespan.

Air Bubble Formation:

Air bubbles in your waterbed can have three possible causes. The first arises when filling the water mattress. Air bubbles are created at the surface of the bladder and near the baffles (the wave retarding elements); these bubbles gradually become detached, float upwards and are eliminated as they collect together. Conventional monomer conditioners speed up the detaching of these bubbles from the surface thanks to their "surface activity" (soap), but they also increase the formation of bubbles in the first place due to their foaming effect. The air-bleeding procedure after filling a mattress remains the same.

The second possible cause can arise after a few weeks, depending on the water quality and the calcium content or water hardness. Observe a pot of water brought to boiling point.

The heating process causes the water to become temporarily cloudy. The carbon dioxide CO₂ is released from the water-soluble calcium, the hydrogen carbonate. Small CO₂ bubbles rise. The same process occurs in a waterbed. The difference is that it happens very gradually over a period of months due to the low temperatures. It also depends on the calcium content of the water. The formation of air bubbles is significantly increased by the foaming effect of conventional monomer conditioners. In contrast, the new polymer conditioner reduces the CO₂ bubble formation to a minimum.

So, depending on the quality of the water and the conditioner used, different levels of CO₂ bubbles can form. These should be bled from the mattress when necessary.

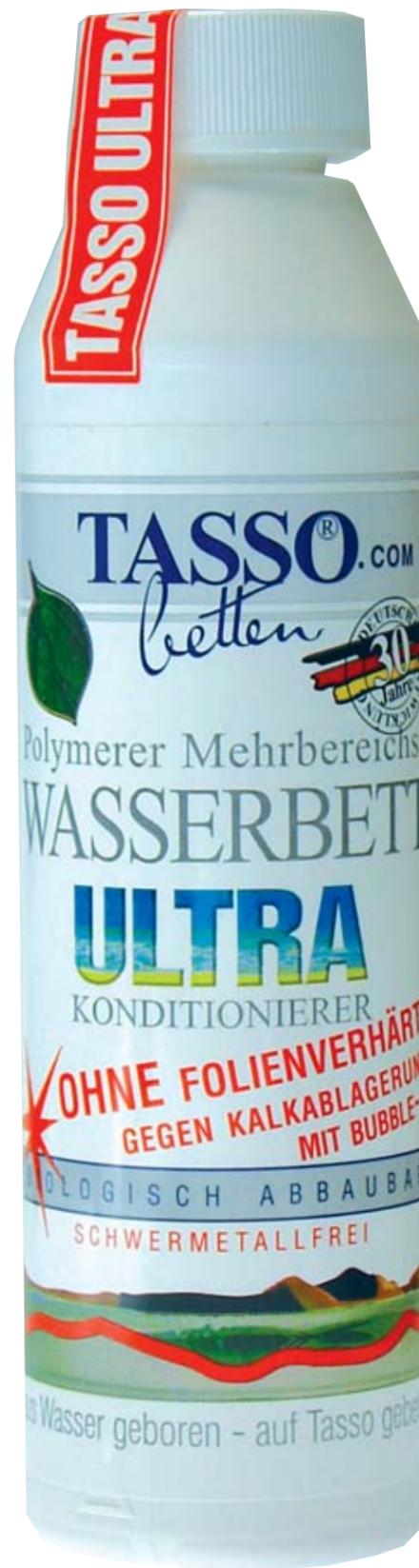
The third potential cause of air bubbles lies in the bacteria which is drawn in during the filling process and which is not eliminated by the diminishing effect of the conditioner. Polymer conditioner can again improve the situation since its superb long-term stability ensures effective, long-lasting anti-bacterial protection.

Environment:

The polymer conditioner is environmentally-friendly! It is completely eliminated and biologically degraded in sewage plants – unfortunately the same cannot

be said for conventional monomers, according to new research. It is also less of an irritant to the mucous membrane in human beings.

However, even the polymer substance should not be released into open waters since it still poses a certain toxic risk to fish.



TASSO-SOFTSIDE

The Deep-Fill TASSO Mattress Core - can be fitted in a bed frame or used as a complete, free-standing waterbed.

The Secrets of the Best-selling "Made in Germany" Softside System:

- Soft and pliable padded bolster which holds its shape, constructed as a single unit.
- Efficient separation for dual systems with no surface loss.
- Can be installed in any bed frame or used as a free-standing system.
- Treated with hydro-adhesive
- Vinyl compatibility.
- "Outline" safety liner.
- Insulation base.
- Fully-recyclable.

Gentle on your body - and yet it can hold half a ton of water and retain its shape for decades. Slanted inner sides for maximum softside comfort. Insulated base layer to keep the heat in.



A softside bolster frame needs to be stable and hold its shape, just like a solid wooden frame, but it also has to be soft and yielding to avoid pressure points on your outstretched arms and legs.

It has to be capable of holding more than half a ton of water, not simply for the period of time it spends on display or for the guarantee period, but rather for decades - solid and stable, regardless as to whether it is free-standing or installed in a bed frame. Our tests have rejected the cheaper, hard types of foam as well as the thicker, unstable foam types and "special layers" sales promotions which conceal weaknesses in the material.

We are one of the first manufacturers of softside systems to introduce our very own specially-developed, high-quality "PUR" foam (polyurethane), specifically designed to be compatible with surrounding liners.

Foam steam production, free from solvents, as good as edible in an ecological sense and easy to recycle. We are one of the first waterbed producers to employ a water-based adhesive. This is a special type of adhesive which replaces the necessary solvents with water. The "drying" process can then happen in the most natural sense of the word, free from chemicals. Once dry, the substance creates a waterproof, durable and elastic joint.

The conical, slanted inner sides make it easier to get in and



out of your waterbed and to sit on the edge of the mattress - the key factors which make a good waterbed.

The dividing join in the dual system creates true separation of the two mattress sections with no loss of surface.

It also breaks wave motion sooner and ensures that these movements are not transferred between the dual system sections.

For the base layer, we decided on a one-centimeter thick, flexible but tough hard-foam surface which offers effective insulation. Made not from styrene, but instead from PE (polythene) which - in a similar way to carrier bags - turns into dust in sunlight.

The durability of this product is guaranteed by our superb reputation and our company product liability insurance

Softside "Outline" Safety Liner

Tough but feather-soft with a lofty, quilted feel. The "Outline" Safety Liner is positioned over the special PU foam bolster



frame to meet standard safety requirements. A more effective insulating base to keep in the heat. Compatible components.

The 0.3 mm thick waterbed liner (the same material is used in the construction of the mattress, but in a format which is about twice as thick) is used as an "Outline" safety liner, fitted precisely to the full contours of the corresponding foam bolster. A mattress pillow top cover made from a completely non-stretch, strengthened PE fabric (soft PVC-neutral) and separated by a zipper down the middle enables the safety liner to be fully sealed up, completely enclosing the foam bolster and the previously-fitted heater system. This ensures that safety is maintained by preventing the liner from slipping down without you noticing. The bolster frame is thereby in the position to act as a "catch tank" in the highly unlikely event of a leak. A complete, fabric-covered dividing gusset is included for Duo systems. The mattress pillow top cover is also available in non-allergic, fleece (washable at high temperatures) or in washable lambswool. Available for all standard mattress sizes, dual formats and waveless systems.

Choice of fabric pillow top covers

Non-allergic fleece, 100% polyester, washable at 100°C

Lambswool fleece, 100% pure new wool, washable

100% Cotton ticking, washable at 100°C



FITS INTO ANY FRAME BUT ALSO COMPLETE WITHOUT

Fabric-Covers

An essential part of how a waterbed works

Fabric covers, liners and mattress pads for your TASSO waterbed (available for softside and hardside systems)

Teddy-Fleece

Pure new lambswool fleece

Quilted cotton ticking

The final touches to ensure the perfect waterbed experience

Teddyfleece washable at high temperatures

genuine pure new wool fleece

washable cotton

non-allergic mixed fibers matched to your specific requirements, easy to care for and it will last for years

unbeatable hygiene and comfort

available in two separate parts to allow for washing at home

Allergies and Household Dust

Fleece pile instead of quilted ticking

When it comes to achieving a good level of hygiene and the right type of micro-climate and moisture control, conventional quilted ticking covers are not really the right choice for a waterbed because of their crosswise fiber structure.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link -- what good is the miraculous level of hygiene offered by a water mattress if you use a fabric cover which is cheap but which doesn't work? Conventional mattresses simply allow perspiration and dead skin to be absorbed into the body of the mattress. In contrast, mite-free water mattresses require a relatively thin fabric cover fitted over the skin of the vinyl which is capable of controlling the entire micro-climate, breathability and moisture (i.e. perspiration management) as well as collecting the dirt. In other words, a cover which is capable of satisfying the highest demands of both comfort and hygiene.

Take pure new wool for example: as long as it is not too thick and not too thin and not too "refined" by strengthening or decorative features, then its breathability and self-cleaning properties make it an excellent choice of material. Cotton is also a good choice provided that its origin, composition and processing are suitable for the specific application. It is also important to check that fibers lying crosswise do not affect air circulation. The unusually high demands made on these materials and the additional mechanical forces exerted to match the shape of the body can push the tolerance of these natural fibers to its limits.

Outstanding results have been achieved with the "Teddy" fleece. This is a luxurious, boil-washable polyester fleece pile which has proved itself to be extraordinarily effective at storing and transporting moisture without causing the annoying perspiration problems for which synthetic fabrics and bad waterbeds are renowned. This is due to its thickness and the vertical ventilation feature of its composition.

Tested in the fields of nursing and home-care and proven over many years to be the best choice for people who suffer from allergies.

The comfort of the mattress surface in our new waterbed designs is taken to even greater heights of excellence in the TASSO range. The full, thick fleece feels like a cuddly teddy bear under the sheets and the robust polyester fibers ensure that this luxurious level of comfort is maintained for a surprisingly long time. Removable, comes with extra-strong zippers, may be separated into two parts and washed or dry cleaned.

Wave Motion Control

A wave motion control system which does not diminish the incredible comfort of a water mattress. Long working life

Orthopedic support

No negative influence on the comfort of the mattress

Free-swimming -- guaranteed to make your mattress last longer

PE floats (or baffles) with a large surface area which have an effect near the TOP of the mattress too

We don't use polystyrene floats which can wash out making them useless

Fully-recyclable

Wave motion control systems have the task of absorbing the movements of the water without reducing or having a negative impact on the fantastic carrying properties of water.

A strong, carefully-constructed baffle similar to a wire sponge which absorbs the waves in the water, but which offers no resistance. A type of webbing which is powerful enough to tame the power of the water, constantly swimming near the top of the mattress to perform its braking action where most of the waves are found.

Just think what the alternative could be: a poor quality wave motion control system would actually increase pressure on the body and defeat the purpose and advantages of having a waterbed in the first place -- it could even provide too much wave motion control (especially in the back area) or give up working altogether.

Our unique fiber element baffle system is based on decades of experiments and research. It is highly durable and will meet the most stringent demands.

No polystyrene balls which absorb water and end up losing their buoyant properties; no thick padding in the part of the bed where your hips are; nothing attached to the outer skin of the mattress which could be the first thing to cause the material to split; no increase in surface pressure which could make you wonder what the point was of having a waterbed.

The TASSO®fiber wave motion control system allows a unique form of relaxation which satisfies the highest orthopedic standards. It provides strong support whilst giving you the sensation of floating on a cloud; it will function perfectly for as long as you use your mattress and create no additional pressure.

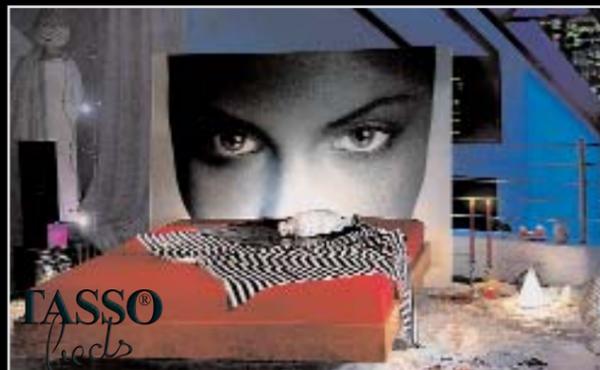
TASSO®fiber represents the best way of supporting your body in a position which satisfies orthopedic standards whilst at the same time absorbing the motion of the waves to the required degree.

An alternative system marketed by our competitors is the "hydraulic" motion control system, also known as the "chamber system". Separate chambers made of material with a number of holes only allow the water to flow slowly through these openings (cf. a tanker vehicle). The pressure on the mattress surface is higher and more "recognizable" when you first try it -- that makes it easier to sell.

TASSO®Profile: the hydraulic wave motion control system (also known as "chambers") -- the "firm" alternative which stops moving faster and provides a harder surface to lie on.

The heavy baffles used with the chambers increase the pressure at the mattress surface. Hydraulic systems are more delicate in terms of their durability and more complicated in terms of handling.

AUGEN



QUADA



BRIDE



STRING



MUSIC



B'CELONA



CARREE



ROYAL



CASE



WINGS



NIVEAU



MASTER



The TASKA3 digital Ceramic Waterbed Heater System:

- The Best Choice at a Glance
- The New Dimension: Ceramics and Space Technology
- Hot-Spots with Synthetic Material Insulation
- Modern technology
- New Ceramic/Precious Metal Combination
- A Tip on the Subject of Electricity
- User-friendly: Fast and Accurate Heat Control
- Energy consumption
- Setting the temperature
- Airing
- Warranty

The Best Choice at a Glance

greatly-improved heat conduction self-regulating heating device to prevent damage from overheating in the event of a thermostat malfunction conserves energy by ensuring optimal use of energy resources, digital control no leakage current no resistor oxidation no overheating or hot-spots no resistor burn-outs due to aging direct heat supply no heat blockages due to self-limiter no damage to adjacent materials in the event of a malfunction no loss of warmth caused by unnecessary insulating materials heats up quickly and requires reduced operating periods smooth digital heat control current balancing to avoid electrical radiant fields radiation-free no softening agent transfer in the event of contact with the mattress material small, highly-efficient aluminum surface environmentally-friendly, all natural materials fully recyclable

The New Dimension: Ceramics and Space Technology

Until recently, waterbed heater systems were constructed using resistors made of wire or pressed metals - just like some other electrical heating systems and in a similar manner to lightbulbs. This method requires the use of thick, plastic insulating materials to provide the necessary protection and safety for these "live" metal elements. The problem is that this plastic casing also serves to insulate the heat. To achieve the required level of heat on the outside of

the waterbed, it is necessary to produce several times this quantity on the inside. The high core temperature is then slowly spread across large surfaces of synthetic materials.

Hot-spots with Synthetic Material Insulation
Synthetic material insulators breathe. In time, oxygen penetrates the synthetic material casing. This can cause unpleasant leakage currents. Given enough time, however, oxidation also destroys the conductive metals. The heat resistor is thinned by the corrosion and the resistance value increases at this point, causing it to become hotter, i.e. a so-called hot-spot is formed until the resistor burns through completely and stops functioning. One burnt-out resistor and the whole device is non-functional. Typically, this brief moment of overheating at a single point also damages adjacent materials. The fact that synthetic materials breathe is demonstrated, for example, by the current use of plastic in the manufacturing of warm water floor-heating pipes. They let enough oxygen through to completely rust the metal components in the heating system after ten to fifteen years, even if brass is used. There is then no choice but to change the parts. Another problem emerges in the context of heat mats manufactured from PVC. PVC is not compatible with the soft vinyl of the water bladder. The contact of these two materials combined with the intense heat gradually causes the softening agents in the liner to be displaced or lost, resulting in premature aging of the water bladder. The old generation of heating systems react badly to any errors in assembly or improper use. A fold in the mattress lining material or a piece of upholstering fabric over the heater system frequently leads to a build-up of heat which can prematurely damage the system and the surrounding materials. Not even an overheating switch can provide absolute security in this context.

Modern technology

The secret is to use a ceramic heating device. This is the solution used in both the switching circuits for heart pacemakers and the heating elements in air and space travel. It ensures the highest levels of precision, reliability and durability and forms the basis of our innovative TASKA3 waterbed heater system, combining unbeatable comfort with the highest levels of safety and environmental awareness in the most advanced waterbeds.

Energy-saving: better use of energy resources

New Ceramic/Precious Metal

Combination

The TASSO ceramic/precious metal combination produces an intelligent level of heat right where it is needed. With no synthetic material coating holding it back, the energy goes directly into the water bladder. The low core temperature permits the use of a smaller heat emission surface and ensures optimal energy usage. Operating performance at higher temperatures is minimized, helping to create a gentle heat which protects linings and ensures a longer-life for the water bladder. The ceramic element rules out any effects of dampness in the air. Leakage currents and oxidation are a thing of the past. This means greater levels of safety and comfort combined with an unlimited life-span for the heating element.

The most intelligent feature of the Tasso ceramic element is the way in which energy use in the element is automatically reduced as the temperature rises - and vice-versa. This means that the scorching or overheating and burn-out caused by a build-up of heat in an air-fold is no longer an issue. The system physically reduces energy consumption as the temperature rises and then gradually increases energy use again as the temperature falls.

TASKA³

Ceramic-Alu an intelligent, safe, durable and energy-saving system

A Tip on the Subject of Electricity

For those of you who don't like the idea of having electricity in your bed, the miracle Tasso bed can adapt itself to your needs! A good waterbed is probably the only energy provider which can be used without electricity. Just set the timer to switch off the electricity for the time you will be in bed and you can still enjoy a comfortable night thanks to the stored energy effect of the water. The temperature will be maintained until the next morning. If you are switching off the electricity for your waterbed, then you might as well disconnect the whole electrical circuit in the bedroom - the TASKA3 produces lower emissions than plug sockets, for example, and is less significant than naturally-occurring environmental levels.

User-friendly: Fast and Accurate Heat Control

The digital control center is built from modern, safe electronics with precise switching mechanisms. The controls are designed to prevent any accidental changes to the settings. The integrated,

two-color light diode discreetly displays the current operating conditions. The control light does not flicker and does not disturb a person sleeping in a dark room. The length of the cables allows the heater element to be placed at the foot of the bed. The controller can be separated from the heating element to aid assembly.

The slim control unit conceals the adjustable temperature scale under a panel which protects it from dust and accidental changes to the settings. The desired heat setting can be accurately selected using the clip-on stylus. If you happen to have mislaid the stylus, you can use any pen or pencil to set the temperature.

Energy consumption

In spite of the fact that the energy yield has been optimized, it is hard to specify the exact consumption of the TASKA3. Energy consumption depends on a number of factors including environmental conditions, room temperature, insulation and covering during the daytime. The fact that heat rises means that a waterbed should be properly covered with the covers and quilt during the daytime as soon as it has been aired sufficiently. In the winter, waterbeds kept at a pleasant temperature can create a better climate in unheated bedrooms. Any additional heat given off by the bed simply benefits the room temperature. Energy consumption for the heating of a waterbed can in this sense be said to be zero, since the heat which is conducted upwards is balanced out by the effect it has on warming the room.

Setting the temperature

You can use the control unit to regulate the temperature according to your individual requirements. It is nevertheless important not to focus too heavily on a wish to "economize" in

this context. The human body maintains a skin temperature of approx. 27°C and this temperature should be available to the body to enable it to relax properly. In addition, a waterbed has its own minimum "body temperature" which lies above standard room temperature. If this is not taken into account, the result could be a build-up of condensation similar to that seen on a glass of cold water. This condensation collects underneath, between the water bladder and the safety liner. It is unable to evaporate, instead causing rotting and leading to odor problems and mold formation. This is why it is important not to completely switch off a waterbed when you are away from home for a longer period of time (e.g. on vacation). It must be kept reasonably insulated using items such as bedspreads. The temperature of the human body remains the same in both summer and winter, so you should keep your waterbed set to this skin temperature of approx. 27°C throughout the year. A unique and refreshing place to lie in summer and at the same time a cozy, warm bed in winter.

Airing

Fabric covers absorb body perspiration from below and then release it up into the air as the heat rises. This is why it is

important to give the waterbed enough time each morning to air and to "breathe" before covering it up again. In this way, your faithful waterbed gets rid of the things which conventional beds leave to ferment within the mattress!

Warranty

Water > electricity > danger - the importance of safety assurances in this context cannot be overstressed. "Guaranteed" safety is only worth as much as the effort that goes into it. And for the essential one-third of our lives spent in one of the best beds in the world, only the best can be good enough! TASKA3 is an intelligent, high-tech waterbed heating system. In addition to our experience, our good reputation, our company product liability insurance and the annual GS TÜV (German Technical Inspection Association) safety checks, we also offer a five-year operating, workmanship and materials warranty. The life-span of your bed will probably be several times longer than this warranty period and - merely from a technical perspective - the chances of your bed experiencing a "critical collapse" and causing any kind of side-effects is essentially an impossibility thanks to our decades of experience from the fields of medicine and space travel.



Pedestals

Free from formaldehyde, just like naturally-grown wood. Natural wood pedestals treated with hydro-varnish. Odor-free to make sure that you get a good night's sleep! Waterbeds are supported on a pedestal base structure. As well as looking good and being environmentally-sound, a pedestal must also be able to guarantee an odor-free and hassle-free environment.

It is unusual to find formaldehyde-free boards in the stores because they are more expensive. But this is not the only potential problem with a pedestal: a combination of the wrong varnish, oils and stains can produce a potent cocktail of odors when used on a waterbed (liners, fabrics, breathing). Frustration, hassle, complaints and ultimately the purchase of a second pedestal - saving money can end up costing you a lot more. Whether you are thinking of building your own pedestal or choosing a cheaper import or a pre-fitted pedestal, consider first if it is worth the risk!

We want to be sure that you are satisfied with all the fantastic advantages of a Tasso system for a long time to come.

Mirror Pedestal

For specifications see TASSO pedestal below

TASSO Pedestal

Base structure in black/white, or optionally coated with eight different natural decorative woods. Base decking in black underneath and white on top with matching edging in black or white and corner attachments to hold it in place

Box pedestal height 20 cm plus decking

Natural Wood Pedestal

For specifications see TASSO pedestal, Base structure made from 28 mm solid spruce wood with hooked screw fittings

Optional varnishing

Natural wood pedestals treated with hydro-varnish

Steel Support Pedestal

For specifications see TASSO pedestal. With a choice of six or nine steel legs in black Bonus point: adjustable legs can be unscrewed to create additional height of up to 7 cm. Allows uninterrupted air flow throughout the room

Pulsating Base Structure

Sound-boxes made from solid spruce wood With a choice of two or four frequency generators, See also Prenatal Room, For music massage and pleasure or rehabilitation therapy

Drawer Pedestal

For specifications see TASSO Natural Wood pedestal, Base structure with a choice of two or four side drawers (measuring 72 x 59 x 13 cm on the inside), Pedestal height incl. decking: 25 cm

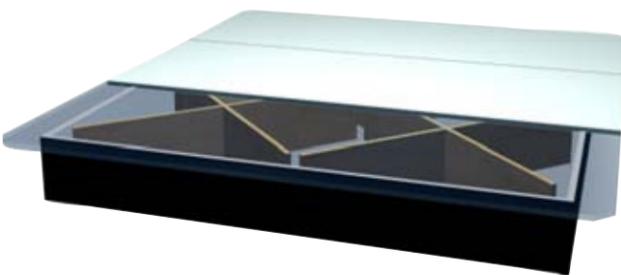
Fitted or Imported Pedestal

For specifications see TASSO pedestal, Base structure only available in black/white, Decking uncoated, no corner attachments, no edge bonding. The economical alternative, comes with only limited recommendation for bedroom use

Free from formaldehyde

just like naturally-grown wood. Natural wood pedestals treated with hydro-varnish. Odor-free to make sure that you get a good night's sleep!

Waterbeds are supported on a pedestal base structure. As well as looking good and being environmentally-sound, a pedestal must also be able to guarantee an odor-free and hassle-free environment.



Environmental Pacesetter

Bio-Systems

Ecology and environmental awareness are acknowledged to be key characteristics of the 1990s and will continue to play a vital role in the year 2000 and beyond. More and more people are making a conscious choice to eat natural products, wear materials which are free from harmful substances and structure their accommodation in a way which is more compatible with the environment. Vontana and their German TASSO brand-name products remain committed to this principle which has been an important feature of our business for many years. As a German corporation, we are happy to make the commitment to check all the components and materials used in our waterbeds for environmental compatibility and to pass used products on to the recycling industry.

We use vinyl free from dangerous heavy metals, food-grade softening agents, steam-foamed PUR foams, hydro varnishes, solvent-free glues, natural woods and formaldehyde-free bonded wood board products.

Our TAS 300 ceramic heating plate is free from radiation emissions, energy-saving, durable and resistant to oxidization. TASSO waterbeds are based on an environmental guarantee which promotes a healthy environment, a high quality of life, healthy sleeping habits which satisfy orthopedic standards, German brand quality, research and innovation.



RESEARCH

The Vontana Sleep Research Department has spent many years working together with universities and institutions, professors and scientists, carrying out a continuous and successful series of pure research studies.

Maintaining and improving our expertise, the quality of sleep and the sheer comfort of lying down.

Materials and production flows are constantly checked and optimized based on our standards of environmental compatibility and health safety.

Our involvement in pure research studies is our way of ensuring that these high standards are maintained.

Warranty
TASSO beds are currently the only products which can provide such a complete guarantee from an ecological and economical point of view. This is because all the components used are checked for their mutual compatibility and tolerance and are monitored within their own production environment. This is in addition to our unique domestic product liability insurance which offers you complete security and peace of mind in your purchase of a TASSO bed.



PATENTS

About 40 national and international patentrights in significant waterbed details, brandnames, furniture designs and others.



MEDICAL PRODUCT

Tasso-Med is an european approved medical product under the medicinproduct code No.: UMDNS 12-480 EG



9

IMPORT WATERBEDS

The cheap Alternative

To compete with waterbed imports we also offer a cheaper alternative: "Bluebird Waterbeds". As with most imports, the warranty is limited to the conditions laid down by the foreign manufacturer. The quality and warranties available are often put on a footing with domestic systems and praised to the skies verbally but have not so far been confirmed in writing. Lengthy warranty periods are generally restricted to discount offers for new purchases made from the same foreign manufacturer. The relatively insignificant cost savings obtained with import components are totally out of proportion to the risks involved concerning issues of durability and incompatibility. Your bed is ultimately the item you use most in your life - that's why our many years of experience lead us to recommend the high-quality "Made in Germany" product, built in accordance with domestic quality standards and norms to ensure that the unbeatable advantages of a good waterbed are not cancelled out by the use of the wrong materials and combinations. Buying something cheap can turn out to be expensive if, for example, the pedestal has to be changed after a short time because you can't get rid of the smell, or if complaints have to be made to a foreign manufacturer because the local dealer no longer exists.



Rearing Piglets using Tasso-Nest

Concrete Advantages in Livestock Management.
Prof. Dr. Steffen Hoy investigated some of the scientific benefits for the agricultural community at the University of Giessen.

The animals showed a higher survival rate, less injuries and a lower frequency of illness combined with significantly improved growth and higher yields. These were the initial conclusions drawn by Prof. Hoy and the specialist agricultural engineer Martin Ziron from the Institute for Stock Breeding and Animal Genetics of the University of Giessen (specialist in livestock management and biology).

Since the middle of 1996, scientists have been working together with the Vontana Corporation on a test farm to study and document the advantages of using heated waterbeds in the rearing of pigs. In the first four weeks of a piglets's life it remains close to its mother in order to suckle. This period -in particular the first few days - is decisive in determining whether the piglet survives and how it grows and is devoted largely to feeding and lying down.

Common practice has been to place the piglets on rubber mats or similar items under heaters. Skin grazes were a common occurrence, especially on the joints, and these had an impact on the physical development of the piglets as well as creating a high risk of infection. It may seem obvious for waterbed specialists, but for the scientists it was a great surprise to see how enthusiastic the animals were about their new mattress. Whenever the piglets were given the choice, they chose their waterbed over any other surface. Prof. Hoy concludes: "It is the perfect solution for the piglets because it takes into account the typical behavioral aspects of how these animals rest and sleep". The animals showed an increase of almost 10% in body mass and reductions in the number of injuries, cases where treatment was required and premature deaths.



Doggy-bed

The most natural and pleasant way to relax!

Babies and even animals instinctively discover their love for a waterbed mattress if they are just given the opportunity to try one. The most natural and satisfying way to lie down. So why not give man's best friend the chance to try one too? The result will be a healthy bone structure, increased energy, balance, vitality and hygiene.

Approved and recommended by modern veterinarians. Veterinarians such as Dr. Rischen and Dr. Heege, Dr. Ann Huntington and several others have confirmed that the warmth and even pressure distribution on a TASSO Doggy waterbed are the best present you can give your canine friend. They are especially helpful for thin or old dogs and those dogs who are recovering from illnesses or who suffer from arthritis or bone diseases.

Your best friend's friend!

Water mattresses for dogs Water mattresses for dogs - well established as the favorite place for dogs suffering acute or chronic problems or recovering from accidents. Many of our pets know that there is nowhere where they sleep more comfortably and healthily than on one of our new generation "Made in Germany" waterbeds..

The sensation of weightlessness, no pressure points and long-lasting deep sleep phases all result in a measurable increase in the production of the regeneration hormone. In cases where your dog has orthopedic problems, a waterbed is the best surface to lie on because it manages to be simultaneously as hard as stone and as soft as a cloud. The water provides perfect support and is the most natural element you can find. All of us were born from a kind of waterbed and nowhere else can help us to recuperate so well.

And the hygiene? You won't find any mites or similar little trouble-makers in either the mattress or the cushions, just clear water (and its easy to keep the covers clean too!).

Technical Description

- Extra strong water mattress
- Safety liner
- Double-layer "teddy" fleece, usable in four positions, can be boil-washed, fits in any standard basket, we recommend using an additional liner
- Heating system (low voltage temperature control system, 20 watts, approved by the German Technical Inspection Association (GS-TÜV))

Made by the number one manufacturer in Germany and the international market leader in the development of modern waterbeds, a dominant player in both the private and rehabilitation markets.

All components are produced in Germany and - in contrast to export products - are subject to domestic regulations concerning quality, safety, purity and recycling.

Warranty

We hereby guarantee that our waterbed liners are free from environmentally harmful heavy metals contain softening agents which are of genuine food-grade status that our vinyl materials are free from reclaims and foreign bodies (demonstrated by their transparency) form part of the raw material recycling process back

Articles from the Press:

BONE REPAIRER

Dog's broken hipbone heals quickly and rapidly on a water mattress.

Four-year-old Yankee the dachshund was hit by a car. The x-ray images showed that his pelvis had been fractured in several places. His pelvic bone, pubic bone and coccyx were broken and too much movement could cause splinters of bone to penetrate his intestine at any moment. The vet said that his chances of recovery were slim, but that since he was a relatively young dog, six weeks of bed rest and an injection might save his life and enable the bones to heal at least partially. On the very first day it quickly became clear that keeping the injured animal still in spite of the pain was going to be a problem. The poor dog hardly knew what to do with himself and how to handle the pain. It was then that his clever owner hit on the idea of a waterbed.

A baby-sized waterbed seemed at least worth a try. The owner filled the waterbed with warm water and carefully placed the dog on it. The results were astonishing. From that moment on the dog willingly stayed lying on the mattress for a large portion of both day and night and even went to the bed of his own accord. It was clear that he felt comfortable there and that it helped to ease the pain.

The x-ray pictures taken after about four weeks showed that the fractures were healing well. Eight weeks later the final x-ray showed that his hip joint had set almost perfectly. Even after all his years of experience, the vet admitted that he had never seen such an astonishing recovery. He had at least expected that the dachshund would be left with a limp or some other kind of restricted movement. But that wasn't the case. Yankee was almost as good as new and he can now jump and run just as much as he could before the accident ever happened. The vet could hardly believe that it was the same dachshund! Yankee's water mattress is still his favorite place - there is no way he is giving up his waterbed after it saved his life and he's never gone back to his old blanket. It makes you think of all those poor sick people in hospitals who never even get the chance to experience the benefits of lying on water...

TASSO
NEU: Doggy Wasser Bett
Your best friend's friend
MADE IN GERMANY

- Ein einzigartiger Lieblingssitz.
- Bei akuten und chronischen Leiden und in der Erholungsphase.
- Gewissen und konstante schlagig auf einen akuten Wasserbetten der neuen Generation.
- Schwermetalle freigegeben.
- Keine Erweichung, unbedeutende Stoffmengen und daher erheblich geringere Produktion des Regenerationshormons. Das Wasser umgibt das Körpergewicht und verteilt es wie kein anderes Ding!
- Hygiene: Keine Motten und Co. in den Matten oder Kissen, sondern klare Wasser und die Matten können leicht sauber gehalten werden.
- Hersteller: T. in Deutschland und internationaler Marktführer in der Entwicklung moderner Wasserbetten. Seit über 20 Jahren wird in der Wasserbettentwicklung von TASSO Betten gearbeitet.

TASSO Betten
VONTANA® Wasserbetten GmbH
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REFERENCES

Quite a Reaction!

Letters from Waterbed Users

Monica and Uwe Weisskopf

Since 15 years we're satisfied tassobed sleeper. Than we remodeled the house and looked for new bedroom furnitures. No questions about to get again a waterbed. Unfortunately we got sold another brand, it was cheaper too. The nightmares began: complains after complains, no more good sleep, untill the whole house started to stink. After six month of nightmares we gave it back and insist on a tassobed again. From that night again we got our dreamnights back. So, waterbeds are not even waterbeds, and cheap is sometimes unaffordable.

Andreas Gronloh, Dipl.Ing, Wallenhorst
Thank You!

Usually people take time to complain, I want to thank you. I've been quite sceptical about waterbeds, but I had to do something to fight my insomnia. Couldn't sleep between 1 and 4 o'clock at night and got health problems out of it. After checking different waterbedstores I got my tassobed. It helped like a wonder. Whether its superstition or what, I don't care, finally I can sleep and feel much more harmonious and develop new energies.

Complementing I'd like to mention the great comfort of my tassobed. In winter-time its always prewarmed and cosy, and in summertime perfect regulating and refreshing, - just marvellous. I congratulate myself for this buy, and wish the best to you.

Josefine Schneider, Berlin

Because of a slipped disc I got my tassobed. I still don't like to get up early in the morning, but definitely without pain anymore.

Disadvantage: No chance anymore to get my 5 year old son out of my waterbed. I have to by his own.

Katrin Jung just loves her tassobed: "My friends just can't get over how cool and sexy a waterbed is!". Well... Sounds like you're having a ball, Katrin!

Hilde Weitzen makes sure that her tassobed stays very much her own private place: The movements I make in bed are calm and gentle and they create a gentle rocking effect. I can be alone with myself, my bed and the world, uninter-

rupted and at peace. It's like a kind of flowing meditation". Very sensual.

Karl Lang writes: "I'm 54 years old. Since I started sleeping on a tassobed I really feel great! A waterbed is the only bed that really makes you feel younger. It has this aura of eternal youth". You can't argue with that!

Frieda Ginger is crazy about her bed:

"Since I started sleeping on a tassobed I wake up every morning feeling renewed and revitalised. That's one heck of a bed!

From Sonja Breitbach:

"We have had a tassobed in the house for a year now and we're really pleased with it. We sleep better and have the feeling that we turn and move around less at night. The back pains I used to have are a thing of the past. And I love the fact that I can sleep well in just about any position. (No more pressure points!) The only thing we had a problem with at the start was actually getting up. But like with everything you just need a bit of time to get used to it. We're sure of one thing though: nothing can beat a waterbed.

From Wolfgang Biniashch:

"About four years ago we knew it was time to change our bed and mattress. My wife and I looked through a ton of brochures on a whole range of conventional bed systems. A waterbed didn't even come into our heads at first. Just by chance we saw some waterbeds in a show room exhibition. Well, that got us interested and we started to compare prices, materials and systems. We decided on a dual system made by a German manufacturer. We are totally satisfied with the choice we made.

The materials, the covers, the heating system, everything fits together perfectly. Looking back on all the years before we had a tassobed we now just feel that a normal bed is a waste of money. Best regards,

Rolf Willms writes:

"I purchased a tassobed about three years ago. Since then I can sleep properly again. My bones always start to hurt so badly on a normal mattress that I'm constantly having to turn from one side to the other which keeps me awake. But my waterbed has changed all that.

The only problem I have now is when I go on holiday. I really miss my waterbed because it seems that there aren't any hotels which have decided to install these kind of beds. Best regards,Rolf Willms, 28816 Brinkum".

A message sent by e-mail:

"dear sir / madam,
our tassbed is fantastic!!! we've never slept so well in our lives!!! and Mr. B from P. did a great job of setting it all up too.best regards, a. u. m. keck".

Ralf Dudda had a nice way of describing the positive effects of his tassobed:

"It was just like the salesman said. At first it's a bit of a new sensation but after a few weeks it's like turning the ignition key in a Rolls-Royce...". His wife says that "you can bet your bottom dollar" that the next time they have to change their bed it'll be to another waterbed!

"We are the proud owners of a tassobed which we had delivered five weeks ago. We decided to buy it after receiving very good and detailed advice. We chose a softside, two mattresses with separate heating elements, 50% waveless. We were totally satisfied right from the start. The problems I used to have with my neck have disappeared and the heated mattress helps me to get to sleep much quicker than before. My husband does shift work but nowadays he sleeps properly without waking up all the time. We really are pleased with our decision. Best regards.

EXPERIENCES

1000 Tassobed-users reported their experiences:

- 97% better bodysupport
- 93% backproblems totaly or partly gone
- 72% less sleepingproblems
- 90% significant better comfort
- 88% better wellness in generell
- 95% perfect temperature
- 94% one and only in hygiene
- 98% better than the expectations
- 85% very satisfied
- 13% quiet satisfied
- 2% unsatisfied
- 90% sleep better
- 75% wake up more relaxed
- 97% every time again
- 40% better lovelife, 40% same,
- 10% no information

Results:

Most of them sleep marvellous, wake up fresh and more relaxed, many health-problems are solved. In particular back-problems, hygenicproblems, insomnia.

BUT sometimes it takes a few days until a couple weeks to get used to the new sleeping system. The service and installation has to be precise.

"Unbelievable that there are still other beds on the market."

QUESTIONS and Answers

The two most common illnesses

The two most common illnesses can largely be traced back to conventional mattresses or bad waterbeds. So what are they?

The two common complaints of back pains and allergies. Back pains can even include deformation of the spine due to lying in awkward positions. Mite droppings found inside conventional mattresses are the primary cause of allergies -- every movement on the mattress puffs out large quantities which are spread around the house as dust in carpets, curtains, upholstered furniture, wardrobes etc.

What types of problems can a TASSO bed help to relieve?

Head and back pains
Pains in the neck, the back of the head and the back caused by slipped discs or trapped nerves in the cervical, thoracic or lumbar spine
Lower back pains caused by wearing of the joints
Back pains caused by poor alignment of the spine (scoliosis, kyphosis, flat back etc.)
Backpains caused by muscular tension
Allergies
Decubitus
Pregnancy and a whole range of other specific conditions

Why do we toss and turn less in a proper, high quality waterbed?

The reason that you shift position so little in a good waterbed is that there are no pressure points causing blood to get blocked in the skin tissue - this makes for more and longer lasting deep sleep phases in which the body can produce the STH growth and regeneration hor-

mone (the somatotrophin hormone), an essential requirement of any true regeneration process.

What are the physical advantages of a waterbed?

The basic characteristics of a waterbed are:
Even pressure distribution
A structure which is flexible and yet which keeps its shape
Hygiene,
And warmth which is given, not taken away.

How are TASSO waterbeds different from other types of waterbed?

Genuine digital ceramic heating system with system support protection; extremely durable and with many additional advantages.

A patented conditioner which can more than double the life expectancy of your bed. Fleece cover pads designed to prevent mold and the buildup of odors. No dubious heavy metals or softening agents, just food-grade, pure, translucent materials.

No "Deluxe" corners with weak points, no base material section with additional seams.

Wave motion control systems which actually do what they are meant to do - not connected to the outer skin and not supported by polystyrene balls which stop working over the course of time and lose all wave motion control functionality.

A safety liner system which also does what it is designed to do.

Five-year German manufacturers warranty.

The only systems manufacturer who takes full responsibility for the compatibility of the individual components, combatting both premature ageing of the materials as well as end-of-line models consisting of random components.

One-piece padded bolster trough with an insulated base and a frame which is soft but which keeps its shape.

Comprehensive scientific

research carried out in collaboration with a number of universities, professors and scientists including our groundbreaking space research work with NASA. Continuous implementation of the latest technology to ensure that our products stay at the cutting-edge of the market.

Complete "Made in Germany" system which comfortably satisfies domestic environmental limits and which aims to create a true regeneration zone for people who care about their environment.

Why are tube and cylinder systems not considered to be proper waterbeds?

Only full-depth, single-cell waterbeds with a water depth of at least 20 cm can guarantee the required physical displacement principle of the water, just like a fish or a ship in the water! This is the only way we can be sure of achieving a perfectly even distribution of pressure and support and unbeatable levels of comfort.

With the cylinder or tube systems you end up lying on three tubes filled to bursting point which do not allow the surface pressure to be properly distributed. High pressures mean short life expectancy. This is why they are marketed with the advice that the tubes can be changed one at a time when necessary.

The only problem is that the leaks only become apparent when you see the water running out! A bed with water, yes, but it isn't a waterbed.

There are, of course, some exceptions to this rule: for example, certain orthopedic problems which require the spine to be positioned at a higher level than the shoulders as occurs in special cases of Bechterew disease.

Imports?

There is no other product which can be compared to a TASSO bed in terms of being a complete "Made in Germany" system.

We do offer a competitive, value-for-money alternative in the form of the Bluebird Import Waterbeds

As with most imports, the warranty is limited to the conditions laid down by the foreign manufacturer. The quality, durability, compatibility and guarantees available are often praised to the skies verbally but can rarely be confirmed in writing.

Lengthy warranty periods are generally restricted to discount offers for new purchases made from the same foreign manufacturer.

The relatively insignificant cost savings obtained with import components are totally out of proportion to the risks involved concerning durability, compatibility, responsibility and quality of life.

Your bed is the thing you use most in life and that's why our experience leads us to recommend choosing an innovative and high quality "Made in Germany" product. Built in accordance with domestic quality standards to ensure that the unbeatable advantages of a good waterbed are not jeopardized by the choice of the wrong materials or composition.

Buying something cheap can turn out to be expensive if, for example, the pedestal has to be changed after a short time because you can't get rid of the smell, or if complaints have to be made to a foreign manufacturer because the local dealer has gone out of business.

What is the life expectancy of a waterbed?

Previously, the answer from the American companies was: 10 years and if you move house after eight years you may as well change the water mattress for a new one.

Today's TASSO Beds offer a significantly higher life expectancy due to the high compatibility of the components we have selected.

That means no mixing of random products which could cause the vinyl to harden as well as choosing the right

assembly process and care program using only the best products.

Most standard conditioners (apart from TASSO conditioner), markedly reduce the life of a waterbed by washing out the stabilisers.

What are the differences between softside and hardside systems??

A softside system:

Can be fitted into any bed frame or used free-standing as a full mattress system
Has a water bladder which is positioned in a soft, insulating foam bolster trough
Uses a water bladder cut into a comical shape which helps to reduce movement and allows you to get on and off the mattress in the same way as with conventional beds

A hardside system:

Always requires a stable, supporting bed frame
Can make it slightly more difficult to get on and off the bed
Boasts a greater volume of water to be displaced
Uses a water bladder which is cut into a cubic shape
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What are the differences between the Uno and Dual systems and what are the advantages of each?

UNO is constructed using a single water bladder in a double bed with a heating system.

The Dual system uses two separate water bladders and two heating systems in a double bed with an effective dividing element.

This allows you to determine the optimal fill levels based on each person's individual requirements - highly recommended for partners of differing weight or for people with certain types of back complaint.

Individual temperature control: as a general rule women prefer to have a slightly warmer mattress.
Your partner is insulated from the movements you make on

your side of the bed.

The design of the bed is vital if you are to obtain these advantages. There are many examples of dual systems on the market which do not in fact offer true separation of the two halves. An example of this is the so-called "thermo separating film".
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Tell me more about the fabric covers..

As a general rule, top covers for waterbeds are available in conventional mattress quilting material in a variety of attractive designs. They tend to consist of shallow, quilted layers of fabric, foam and padding.
In reality, these kinds of textile covers are not suitable for waterbeds because they are unable to adapt to the special micro-climate.

Perspiration and moisture from the body must be absorbed underneath during the night and then be released into the air during the day. The only materials which a suitable for this job are high-quality fleece pile materials, because flatter materials create blocking layers which interrupt vertical capillary circulation. Quilted padding and foam rubbers - apart from being non-recyclable - hold onto the moisture like a sponge, actively encouraging mold and odors.

In contrast to conventional mattresses, a waterbed is not aired from below.

TASSO "Teddy" fleece is extremely deep-pile, non-allergic and boil-washable! However, where possible we recommend washing it at a germ-killing 60°C so as not to put unnecessary strain on the structure of the fibres.
TASSO Lambswool Cover, made from genuine pure new wool fleece, may be washed gently at 40 °C or dry-cleaned.

Cotton ticking, the ticking which really stands out from the competition: made from pure cotton and cotton quilting (recyclable). May be washed at high temperatures with shrinkage of up to 6%, we recommend washing at

60 °C. It is substantially more durable than the other materials and has a higher life expectancy and unbeatable levels of comfort.

How strong is the mattress material?.

The TASSO water mattress has an optimal thickness of 0.5 mm. Experience has shown this to be the best thickness since thicker materials are liable to break quicker due to the constant bending and creasing to which they are exposed and thinner materials are not durable enough.

Safety liners are frequently offered with a thickness of 0.10 or 0.20 because they are generally perceived to have no real function.

TASSO safety liners are 0.30 thick and are designed to provide a genuine "catch tank". Not because the mattresses could burst (they cannot burst because there is no pressure) but rather because we know that sometimes kids can poke around where they shouldn't and that accidents can happen when filling a mattress.

Wave motion control? Why? And how waveless should it be?

Wave motion control systems should be capable of breaking the motion of the waves in a similar way to a coral reef, but they should not affect the carrying properties of the water.

Fitted hydraulic chambers have finally disappeared from the market -- they only served to generate pressure and problems.
Attaching fitted mats to the corners and/or using polystyrene balls as floats does not have any useful function and can damage the unit.

Attaching anything to the exterior skin of the mattress can create weak points; polystyrene balls have a tendency to get washed out and pollute the environment. These kind of so-called wave control effects end up sinking to the bottom and just causing problems.

And the extra padded sections to support your back - marketed as lumber support - reduce the marvellous supporting properties of the water, which defeats the object of having a waterbed in the first place. These are nothing more than opportunistic commercial developments trying to base themselves on conventional mattress system technology. The whole subject of wave motion control is another example where TASSO seems to be the only company which can stand up to rigorous scrutiny: an extremely strong, loose-meshed, water-resistant webbing - slightly resembling a light wire sponge stitched to durable floats offers an optimal level of motion control ranging from free-flow to full wavelessness and supporting properties of the water

poses no danger to the exterior skin of the mattress and no risk that the elements will become unattached or sink to the bottom
Available in five different levels: FF, free-flow = no wave motion control, F2 = slight wave motion control, F3 = medium wave motion control, F5 = ultra wave motion control, F8 = waveless.

What's the right level of motion/wavelessness for me?

The level of wave motion control is basically a matter of personal taste (i.e. it depends on what you feel comfortable with) and possibly a question of specific, personal orthopedic problems.

Old hands in the waterbed business may tell you that nothing can beat a free flow system, but they will also readily acknowledge the advantages of a fully waveless TASSO mattress which provides the ultimate in motion control technology.
Higher levels are especially worth considering in one-piece double mattresses; dual systems generally requi-

re lower levels of motion control.

And the right fill level?

When lying on your side your spine should form a straight line.

How is the TAS 300 different to other heating systems on the market?

TAS 300 is a ceramic heating system capable of emitting exactly the right amount of heat to gently maintain the water mattress at the required temperature. There is no risk of a safe temperature being exceeded even in the unlikely event of a control system failure.

The heat is transmitted upwards, not down into the base. The ceramic installation system prevents oxidation of the heat resistors, helping to ensure that dangerous hotspots are avoided. TAS 300 is free from electronic smog and highly energy efficient.

Other heating systems are generally spiral-shaped radiating devices coated with synthetic materials which give off heat both upwards and downwards and which run the risk of oxidation and melting -- a problem which ends up destroying not only the heating system but also the safety liner, water bladder and base materials.

Warning! Copies have recently been introduced onto the market which can hardly be distinguished from a TAS 300 on the outside but which are packed full of old technology on the inside.

How high will my electric bill be each month?

Somewhere between \$2.25 and \$3.15 depending on room temperature.

What are the advantages of having extra strong corners on the water mattress?

No advantages at all! The ultra-strengthened material diminishes the flexibility of the corners, which can lead to a reduction in terms of both elasticity and adaptability

and a lower life expectancy for the water mattress.

What are the advantages of translucent mattress material?

Translucent mattress material is the proof that you are getting a genuine, high-quality product which is free from reclaims and unknown additives - something which you feel comfortable enough to spend a third of your life lying on! Another practical advantage is the fact that it is easier to spot air bubbles and flatten them out.

What is the difference between an Outline and a Contour safety liner?

Outline liners are stretched over the outer bolster whilst Contour liners enclose only the water bladder itself. The latter type is useless since as the water level sinks it starts to collapse and allows everything to leak out.

Although the TASSO Outline liner may seem to be a more expensive option initially, it has the advantage of being a high-quality product which is actually capable of performing its job! In addition, it offers higher standards of cleanliness and hygiene, is easier to maintain and provides genuine protection to the system from outside elements.

Are modern waterbeds free from heavy metals?

No. Gold is also a heavy metal. Highly-poisonous heavy metals such as cadmium are frequently included in vinyl liners as cheap stabilisers.

Tasso mattress materials are free from all poisonous heavy metals. We use high-quality, safe materials for stabilising purposes such as zinc and barium.

What is the advantage of a conical foam bolster?

Simply comfort! It allows you to get in and out of your waterbed as you would with a conventional mattress. It also

provides wave motion control and helps the bed to keep its shape, all without use of an additional frame.

Should my waterbed be heated as normal in the summer or is 20 °C enough for hot days?

The temperature can be controlled according to your individual requirements, but it should not be set lower than the skin temperature level of 28 °C for long periods. This temperature creates a cozy environment in winter and feels pleasantly cool in the summer.

Do you perspire more on a waterbed than on a conventional bed?

No, a waterbed set at skin temperature only serves to relax and ease your body, without heating it up! In fact quite the opposite is true: thick feather beds are now definitely out of fashion, lighter bed surfaces allow for far better airing and micro-climatisation of the body. The right fabric cover ensures that the moisture caused by your body is carried away and released into the air.

Do waterbeds have summer and winter sides?

A meaningless question in waterbed terms. The thicker a cover, the less able it is to adapt. Moreover, Tasso beds are temperature-controlled so that summer and winter sides are unnecessary. Human beings are warm-blooded and have the same body temperature all year round.

This simply means that in summer less energy is used than in winter.

The same temperature setting creates a cozy environment in winter and has a pleasant cooling effect in the summer. You could compare it with the radiator fluids in a car engine.

Seasickness?

...is as unlikely on a Tasso bed as it is for a baby in the

arms of its mother. The movements of your partner are absorbed by the water and transformed into a gentle rocking motion which has a calming effect which lulls you to sleep. In any case, you will find that you move around less on a Tasso bed since it enables you to get to sleep quicker and spend longer in deep sleep phases.

How heavy is a TASSO bed?

It always constitutes a permissible weight in house construction terms (see results of structural surveys) and the court judgment where the presiding judge ruled that the landlord and house owner had no grounds for concern. To calculate it: multiply the length by the width by the height of the water mattress, this gives you the number of cubic decimeters which equals the number of kilos.

For a softside system this averages out to approximately 250 liters (i.e. kilos) per mattress spread over approximately 2 sq m.

With a hardside system, it comes to approximately 300. Per square meter that roughly corresponds to the weight of three people standing still. And do you ever get worried about the body mass of your guests causing problems?!

Structural Survey

This structural survey was carried out on the basis of the largest bed size. Weights: water: 2.13 x 1.83 x 0.23 x 10.0 = 897 KP (a kilopond is equivalent to a kilogram); frame: 0.40 x 7.92 x 2.02 x 6.0 = 38 KP; shell: 15 KP; 2 people of heavy build = 180 KP; Total: 1130 KP.

The bed covers a surface area of (2.13 + 0.04) x (1.83 + 0.04) = 4.06 sq m. A normal house is designed to support a load of 150 KP/sq m, most houses are however given an additional surface load-bearing capacity of 125 KP/sq m to allow basic dividing walls to be erected. This gives a total load capacity of 150 + 125 = 275 KP/sq m.

If you live in a building like

this then you do not need to read any further and can relax on your waterbed without any worries, since the weights divided by the surface area gives us $1130 / 4.06 = 278$ KP/sq m, which matches the planned load-bearing capacity of the floor almost exactly. If, however, you are at all concerned about the 3 kg of excess weight (278 - 275) or are unsure whether the separating wall allowance was included in the calculations when your building was constructed, then please read on. The basic content of DIN 1055, page 3, paragraph 5 runs as follows: "Items such as safes, storage heaters etc. (waterbeds were not yet in standard usage when this DIN was introduced in 1963) may exert a load of 300 KP on the ceiling". If you now add together the admissible ceiling load allowance in the bed area you get the result of $4.06 \times 1.50 + 3.0 = 9.09$ KN (909 KP).

Please note that the following considerations are based on the use of norms, allowing general guidelines to be given which do not take into account details of any specific location or any special circumstances. In the case of a waterbed (as a general rule positioned in the bedroom), let us assume that the bed has a gap approximately 50 cm wide on at least three sides (a total of approximately 3.5 sq m) which is not under any load pressure and which thus provides some relief to the ceiling. We will also assume that the heavy wardrobe items are positioned up against the wall allowing their weight to be carried directly by the walls. We should bear in mind that the average load of a bedroom is generally substantially lower than the permitted load. A 15 sq m room can be calculated as $15 \times 150 = 2250$ KP/sq m. This corresponds to the weight of two large medium-range automobiles.

Rolf Gartzmann, Structural Engineer, March 1985.

Court judgement: a waterbed in rented accommodation?:

A ruling has been pronounced permitting a waterbed to be placed in rented accommodation even if the landlord objects.

There have been some instances of problems arising between a landlord and tenant due to the fact that a tenant wishes to install a waterbed. We currently know of no other similar case which has been decided on the basis of a court judgment. The subject itself is, however, a fairly common one for people buying a waterbed for the first time. Questions frequently emerge concerning the weight, whether the landlord needs to be informed, whether special insurance is required etc..

In the case presented here, the waterbed had already been in use for six years before the landlord took the tenant to court. In the early stages of the dispute, the waterbed owner contacted the Westphalian manufacturer Vontana. They agreed to cover the legal and court costs in order to get an example case on the books. The judgment was pronounced on the 23rd December 1992 under the reference number 20 C 83/92. The following excerpts are taken from the ruling:

Facts of the case: The plaintiff demanded that the defendant remove a waterbed installed in a rented apartment. The house was constructed around the turn of the century and is fitted with wooden-beamed ceilings.

The plaintiff's arguments were as follows: The surface area of approximately 4.5 sq m exerts a load of approximately 278 KP per sq m. In the long-term, a load such as this can only be carried by modern steel and concrete ceilings which are equipped for this purpose. Ceilings in older buildings such as the one under discussion here are not designed to deal with loads of this size. The plaintiff filed a claim attempting to prohibit the defendant from installing a waterbed and to

establish that the defendant be required to purchase all-risks insurance on behalf of the plaintiff to cover the specific risks posed by the installation of a waterbed. The claim was rejected and the plaintiff was ordered to pay all the legal costs. The judgment is enforceable with immediate effect.

Reasons for the decision: The plaintiff had no basis on which to demand the removal of the waterbed from the rented apartment. There was no clear evidence to show that the installation of a waterbed went against the contract. The question remains open as to whether the relevant load in this specific case totaled 278 KP per sq m or only up to 230 KP per sq m, since the way a ceiling is designed means that in this case every individual sq m of the total ceiling area would have to be submitted to a load of 275 KP in order to reach the limits of its load-bearing capacity. Assuming that the surface was approximately 16 sq m, this would then total 4400 KP. In this sense, the load which the plaintiff argued the waterbed had (278 x 4.6 sq m, i.e. almost 1300 KP) would also have to be distributed over the entire area of the ceiling which -- working on the basis of an area of 12 or 13 sq m -- would amount to approximately 100 KP per sq m. This result would allow plenty of capacity for additional loads caused by items of furniture and people.

The judgment is also supported by the fact that the bed had spent several years standing in the same place. If the ceiling had really been overloaded, some kind of structural alterations would have already become apparent in the period since its installation in 1986. Additional decisions follow on from §§ 911, 70B No. 11,713 of the German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO).

Will it burst?

A TASSO bed cannot burst because there is no pressure inside! Even an accidental cut with a knife can be pat-

ched quickly and easily. Items such as showers, washing machines etc. which are attached to the water mains represent an enormous danger (relatively speaking) which we have simply learnt to live with.

What kind of pedestals are available?

The original TASSO pedestal consisting of coated, formaldehyde-free boards

A variety of solid and natural wood pedestals

The steel-leg pedestal, open underneath to allow better air circulation in the room

Drawer pedestals
Pulsating base pedestals which transfer acoustic sound waves to your entire body

and import pedestals - the cheaper alternative - which cannot really be recommended for the bedroom, since the formaldehyde used and the smells which develop generally cause people to end up changing them for a new one.

What's the proper way to take care of my waterbed?

Add some TASSO conditioner to the water once a year - the water itself doesn't need to be changed!

When you change the sheets, wipe down the water bladder using a damp cloth. Spray vinyl cleaner onto the water bladder and then wipe it off three to four times a year.

Water + electricity = danger?

In terms of their electronic components, TASSO heating systems are approved by the German Technical Inspection Association (GS TÜV) and are emission-free. If you feel uncomfortable having electricity in your bedroom, you can even turn off the electricity overnight! Your faithful waterbed is one of the few electrical devices which keeps working even without electricity thanks to the storage effect of the water. So warm it up

during the day and enjoy a cozy waterbed during the night.

Heating costs?

Depending on the surrounding temperature and individual circumstances this generally comes to about \$4.40 per double bed per month.

The heat which is given off simply works to the benefit of the room temperature.

A needle in the bed?

A pin stuck into a TASSO waterbed is absorbed by the mattress cover pad (the fabric cover between the sheets and the mattress). Even in the unlikely event of something like this happening, it's fairly hard to actually make a hole. The skin of the mattress is strong and supple.

Changing the water?

Not necessary. When first filling the mattress and every six to eight months after that you should add some special, biologically-degradable water conditioner to stop algae from building up and to keep the water fresh.

Insurance?

From an insurance point of view a waterbed is treated like an aquarium, i.e. private liability insurance covers you for any damage caused to third parties and household contents insurance covers you if this is expressly agreed.

Heating?

The TASSO bed heating system is positioned under the mattress and under the safety liner. The heater mat is waterproof. TASSO ceramic heating systems are approved by the German Technical Inspection Association (GS TÜV) and are earthed (equipment bonding). If you don't feel comfortable having electricity in your bedroom (based on the fact that even open plug sockets emit certain levels) then you can switch off the electricity supply at night, safe in the knowledge that the water will keep in the warmth.

Can I try it out in a hotel?

This cannot really be recommended since the fill level and temperature should generally be set to match individual requirements. It is difficult to gain an accurate first impression if the bed has not been specifically set up to

match your needs.

Lightweight water mattresses?

Intended to be placed on old mattresses or used in nursing or travel situations. They contain an insufficient quantity of water and therefore have only very limited functionality.

Terrestrial Radiation?

TASSO beds insulate you from terrestrial radiation and water piping. Water pipes emit radiation due to the friction of the water. Still waters have an insulating effect.

Making the bed and taking care of it.

Our series of "Made in Germany" waterbeds are similar to most other beds in this regard.

The fabric mattress pad under the sheets can be removed and cleaned. Bodily secretions do not stay locked up in the mattress forever; moisture evaporates as the heat rises and the TASSO water bladder itself can be surface washed.

Waterbeds for babies?

The best present you can give your child. And here's

why: Born from water, bedded on a TASSO! Better development of the skull, falling asleep faster, staying asleep without waking up all the time, longer-lasting deep sleep phases, greater production of growth hormones....

Just try laying a screaming baby on a TASSO bed and watch what happens!

Is a TASSO bed soft?

It is as hard as stone and as soft as a cloud! Water has the characteristic of being harder than stone, but also of being soft and flexible. The sensation of lying on a TASSO waterbed is one of softness and restfulness.

The water provides an even level of support to your entire body, even including the S-shaped spine, the knees and the neck - support for every body in every position.

Sleeping on a board?

This thinking stems from the time when mattresses were laid on metal mesh and people slept like "bananas". To improve the situation, people recommended laying a board under the mattress. This idea led to the later development of the slatted frame.



ADVISE for sales people

Questions and Answers

Why use a TASSObed?

Born from water, bedded on water!

Every human being is essentially born from a kind of waterbed and is mostly made up of warm water just like a waterbed!

Two of the most common illnesses can largely be traced back to the use of conventional mattresses:

Back pain resulting from poor positioning, curvature of the lower back, intervertebral disc slippage and Allergies resulting from the masses of mites which inhabit older mattresses, whose droppings are puffed out with every movement. Their presence in household dust in carpets, curtains and wardrobes is the number one cause of allergies.

A proper waterbed carries and supports your body perfectly evenly in every position, providing an almost weightless sleeping experience with none of the pressure points and blood circulation blockages which previously led to so much tossing and turning during the night.

A good waterbed encourages longer-lasting deep sleep phases which enable your body to produce the STH regeneration hormone (the somatotrophin hormone) and - in children - the growth hormone.

Professional sportsmen and women, high-performance athletes and Olympic gold medal winners report increased performance when they use TASSO waterbeds and 95% of people who use a good quality waterbed confirm:

Significant relief from everyday troubles such as back pain and allergies

A substantial improvement in overall well-being

More get-up and go!

95% of our customers rank

us as "Good" or "Very Good" thanks to:

Shorter time needed to get to sleep

Longer-lasting deep sleep phases

The sensation of weightlessness when lying down

Significant relief from everyday aches and pains. The relaxing level of warmth

Optimal support provided to your entire body.

The Filling Station of Life. Regeneration which costs us a third of our life.

Another important point - the hormone "melatonin" (the hormone which fights against the aging process) is produced in the phase of falling asleep and is thus generated even more profusely when sleeping on a good waterbed.

Disadvantage: you'll find it very hard to give up your beloved waterbed! Both in the mornings and when you are away from home. The plus side is that you will find camping easier because a waterbed ensures that your back is better prepared. On the down side, hotel beds can often cause more discomfort than they did previously, if only for the reason that you are more aware of the lack of hygiene. It only takes a few days for your back to start suffering from its old problems again.

So not all waterbeds are the same?

Absolutely not!

There are even some waterbeds (we won't name them here!) which are not recognized by the German Waterbed Association (IWB) as proper waterbeds since they do not fulfill the fundamental physical requirements.

e.g. Cylinder or tube systems which do not provide the required "principle of displacement"

Dubious and untested materials which contain poisonous heavy metals

Unsuitable softening agents which we spend a third of our lives inhaling

High emission heating systems

Safety liner "dummies" which are not up to the job

Conditioners which cause materials to age prematurely

So-called strengthened corners which act as built-in weak points

Taut covers which create a hammock effect

Flat fabric surfaces which are not capable of sustaining the micro-climate and which can cause rotting

Components which cause softening agents to be displaced and

Furniture components which contain formaldehyde - even if these do not exceed permitted levels I still don't want them in my bedroom!

etc. etc.

These products still get sold because it is impossible for the consumer to check everything and all too often skillful salesmen are prepared to promise anything, at least verbally

Why choose a TASSO bed??

TASSO beds represent a new generation of waterbeds - they can hardly even be compared with the waterbeds of the past.

When production of the Vontana waterbed started in the early eighties after about ten years of development, the waterbed market in America was booming with a range of increasingly cheap waterbeds. What counted was the number of container loads rather than the level of quality.

There was only one way of competing against cheap imports: a clear focus on quality, reliability and responsibility, creating an exceptionally high-quality "food-grade" product for human regeneration never before seen on the market.

The best invention since walking upright!

The filling station of life.

If it's made properly.

By the end of the 1990's, the waterbed market in the USA had virtually disappeared. The area of Los Angeles has about 13 million inhabitants and yet can nowadays boast

only two or three companies which can "get hold of" a waterbed.

In contrast, Europe and in particular Germany have witnessed the development of a healthy and innovative waterbed market together with a whole new type of trader: the specialist waterbed dealer.

The responsibility for this positive development can to some extent be credited to the manufacturer of TASSO beds, Vontana, who are the only complete systems producer of waterbeds currently active in the international arena. Vontana has spent decades observing the mistakes and weaknesses of the competition and has devoted considerable efforts to working with trade partners to develop unbeatable quality and build up a significant market share - even in the field of space research!

The success of TASSO beds stems from a number of factors: firstly, our efforts to inform and enlighten people on the subject of water bed technology and, secondly, our continuous efforts to improve our products and implement the findings of new scientific research. This research has been carried out in close collaboration with a variety of scientists, universities and professors. We have even worked with NASA on a project to create a sleeping system for the international ISS space station, demonstrating progress which is really out of this world!

Our leading position in terms of quality is backed up through dozens of patents and copyrights.

What are the concrete advantages of buying a TASSO bed as opposed to some other waterbed?

Our prices are not - or at least not substantially - higher than those of the competition. People know that good things never come cheap. Unfortunately, this often results in the cheapest import products being sold with enormous profit margins at

prices close to those of TASSO products.

The quality of the materials! Virtually no checks are made on import products for poisonous heavy metals, food-grade softeners and emissions.

Selbst vorgeschriebene. The intensive way in which we use waterbeds means that even the limits laid down for domestic production are in fact insufficient. Much depends on manufacturers taking responsibility for these aspects in the production process - something which most dealers are only willing to "guarantee" verbally.

TASSO manufactures complete waterbed systems and can therefore take responsibility for all the components which would otherwise be selected by the dealer: a water mattress from one company, a heating system from another company and the frame...? Who knows?

The main thing is to cut prices because "it's the price that counts". Who gets the blame if something goes wrong? The dealer. And if the dealer closes down...?

And there is an awful lot that could potentially go wrong in lower-quality products: the wrong type of varnish, for example, or a combination of unsuitable materials which removes softening agents from the mattress material, causing it to become brittle after just a few years. It's at that point when the customer realizes that those fantastic promises contained in the warranty for the import product are in fact limited to the promise of a discount price for the future replacement of a new water bladder in the state of California...

Genuine digital ceramic heating systems (watch out for fakes!) prevent damage to the surrounding components, thereby increasing the life expectancy of the system whilst producing virtually no electronic smog and cutting operating costs.

Conventional heating systems are mostly incompatible with lining materials in the long run. They also tend

to be breathable, meaning that they "rust" (oxidize) over the course of time. They normally make quite an impressive exit, often causing a hot spot which can damage both the water mattress and the base structure as the elements burn through.

Our TASSO conditioner is the only one on the market which doesn't wash the softening agents out of the lining the way that soap does.

The simple fact that you can double the life expectancy of your mattress using this conditioner effectively means that you can cut the price you see on the ticket by half. It only takes a few days for waterbed materials left in conventional conditioners to simply disintegrate! In TASSO conditioner, they are still as good as new years later.

A safety liner which goes over the whole bolster rather than just over the water bladder. This is the only way to create a genuine safety net to protect you in the unlikely event of your waterbed being deliberately damaged.

Safety liners which enclose the water bladder are simply not worth the price you pay for them - in the case of an accident they simply collapse as the water level sinks.

In contrast, you can really feel the strength of a TASSO safety liner and see how it forms a solid unit with the outer skin by means of an extra strong zipper.

The seams and corners are another vital element. They represent the weak points in any waterbed, since the technology available still does not allow us to manufacture a product without seams.

No weak points caused by so called deluxe corner designs. No additional seams resulting from mattress materials which are too thin

No cheap base materials made from dark-colored reclaim materials.

Translucent material (slightly transparent) - genuine mattress material with no unknown additives or reclaims.

Wave motion control using durable floats which are not attached to the outer skin, because that is precisely where they cause weak points.

Wave control floats only work if they are constantly swimming at the top of a TASSO waterbed, because that is where the waves are moving. Polystyrene floats attached to the outer skin soon become detached and wash around (very annoying when you are trying to drain the mattress), or they absorb too much water so that your wave control system ends up lying on the bottom of the mattress. Not very useful...

We do not use the so-called lumbar supports and strengthened vinyl in the spine area which in fact only serve to eliminate the advantages of a good waterbed by creating uneven pressure points.

TASSO motion control is available in five different levels and does not inhibit the fantastic carrying properties of water in the least. Separating the water mattress into two parts in a "Dual" system only makes sense if you use the triangular bolstered central element found in TASSO waterbeds. The common use of a thermo separator on its own accentuates the different fill levels and does not serve to isolate movement.

Cut and shrinkage

The cut of the water bladder is an important trade secret. It is essential that the customer does not end up lying on a tensed surface or feeling like they are in a hammock.

The generosity of the cut is referred to as "puppy skin" due to its similarity to the skin of a young dog. It should give, but not too much and the natural shrinkage of the material must be kept to a minimum. To the best of our knowledge no other company is currently able to match this kind of quality. We have seen water bladders which have shrunk by almost fifty per cent within just a few years. The shriveled result throws all of the prized advantages

of a waterbed straight out of the window.

Recycling - who cares?

Import mattress materials have to undergo special waste disposal treatment, as do foam materials with excessive adhesives and certain compound materials. We know of no other waterbed which can claim to be as environmentally-friendly and ecologically-sound as a TASSO waterbed.

Hydro-foamed PUR foams. Hydro varnishes and water-based glues.

Liners which even a wood-worm would approve of: no fungicides, cadmium or dubious softening agents.

Pedestals which are coated and free from formaldehyde and which do not need to be changed after a short period of time when you get fed up with the smell.

Warranties without the hidden small print declaring that they are only valid abroad or that they only allow discounted purchases of replacement parts. TASSO beds are the only waterbeds on the international market which guarantee a complete "Made in Germany" system with the corresponding guarantee that claims will be treated responsibly and in good faith. back to top

Tell me more about the specific research findings.

Higher levels of performance! Whether you are a professional athlete or a normal guy in the street, your body will be producing more of the STH regeneration hormone.

Chronic back problems become a thing of the past.

Non-allergic thanks to the fact that mite droppings - the main cause of allergies - are not present.

95% of users asked graded us as "Good" or "Very Good" and wrote comments like: "it really helps you get to sleep" and "are you always right with everything you say?!?". Improved head and body development in small children.

New horizons in the field of

rehabilitation with the Prenatal Room.

An improvement of over 10% in piglet rearing. It is quite something to watch young piglets scrambling for a place on a TASSO waterbed!

Dogs with hipbone fractures which have been given up as hopeless cases but which have made a full recovery on a TASSO waterbed.

And of course the extraordinary experience gained in developing sleeping quarters for astronauts and testing these in zero gravity situations.

From the best form of regeneration for you on earth to the best sleeping sensation in zero gravity.

So what's the best bed for me?

Basically the biggest one you can get! You spend a third of your life in your bed, not just the odd moment here and there. A TASSO bed will help you to improve the overall quality of your life in ways which you never even imagined. Don't set any unnecessary limits!

For young and young-at-heart couples of roughly the same weight the Uno (single mattress) system is fine.

However, we recommend the Dual system with its two ceramic heating devices in cases where partners have different weights or back problems, since this allows you to set individual fill levels and heat requirements. Purely for biological reasons women generally like the temperature to be a little higher.

The level of wavelessness (motion control) is a matter of personal taste: free-flow is a fine option, especially in the Dual system, but you do not lose any of the comfort even with a more waveless mattress which can be especially practical in an Uno system.

TASSO "Teddy" cover non-allergic and ultra comfortable thanks to the close packed fluffy fleece pile.

You have to make sure that you get an original pedestal which matches your chosen system - this is often where the hone handyman tries to save a few dollars by building it himself. Formaldehyde-free boards are hard to come by in the stores due to their higher cost, but you are not doing yourself any favors buying the cheaper versions. Most of the time you will trade them in sooner or later because of the unpleasant

smell: the cheapest option can often end up being the most expensive!

The frame and furnishings are a whole separate ballgame. You can set up a TASSO softside system as a bed in its own right. Alternatively, you can add just a headboard, integrate it into any existing bed frame or purchase one of the exclusive matching TASSO frames. Please note that the majority of our TASSO bed frames are manufactured in high-quality, hand-processed small batch production using a generous share of solid precious woods and other expensive materials - they really cannot be compared with products from large factory production runs in terms of either quality or price.

And last but not least...the assembly of the bed. It is essential that this is carried out by a specialist when you first receive your bed. The mattress must be filled to exactly the right level to achieve the maximum level of comfort.

Right! The bottom line is ...how much is it all going to cost me? Including delivery and

assembly - the frame - DUAL F3 - the pedestal and care accessories: \$XYZ.

That's a lot of money!

No, it really isn't! Once you take into account issues of product quality and life expectancy and think about the added benefits to your quality of life, then its pretty much the best price you will find anywhere.

But of course you are welcome to buy the cheapest option first and then have to buy the sensible option later, but bear in mind that this often turns out twice as expensive, not to mention the added stress!

Warranty??

A full five-year warranty from a domestic manufacturer who has been in business for decades and is fully-insured with comprehensive product liability cover. That's pretty unique too!

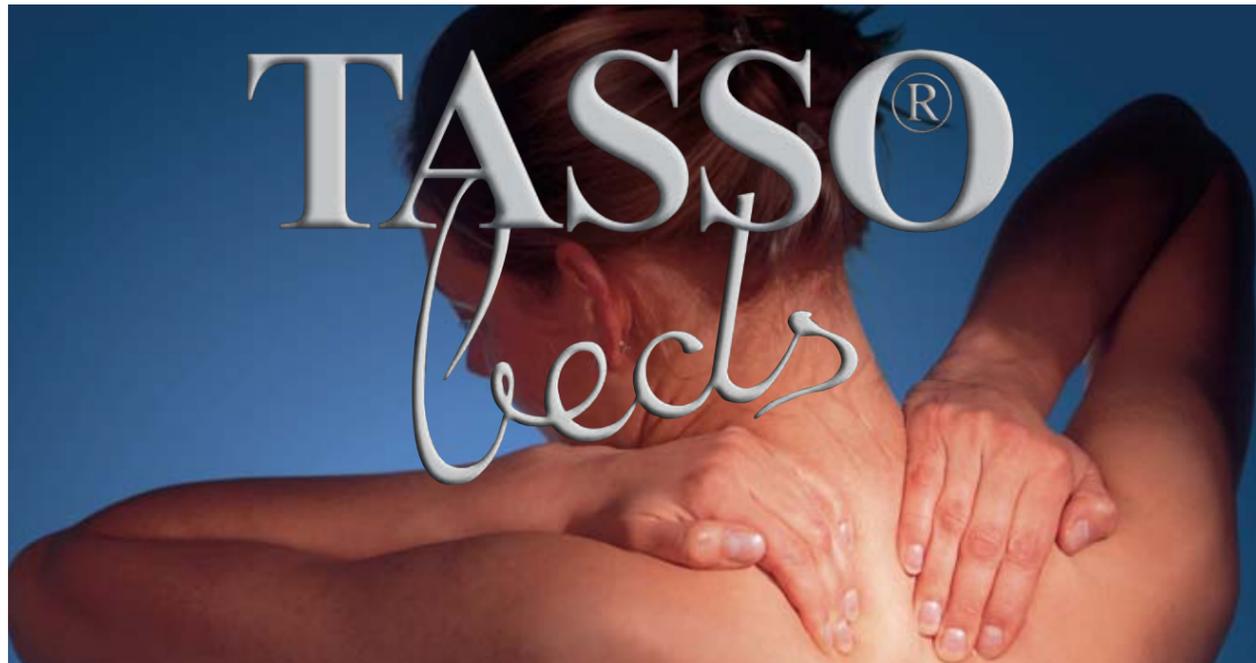
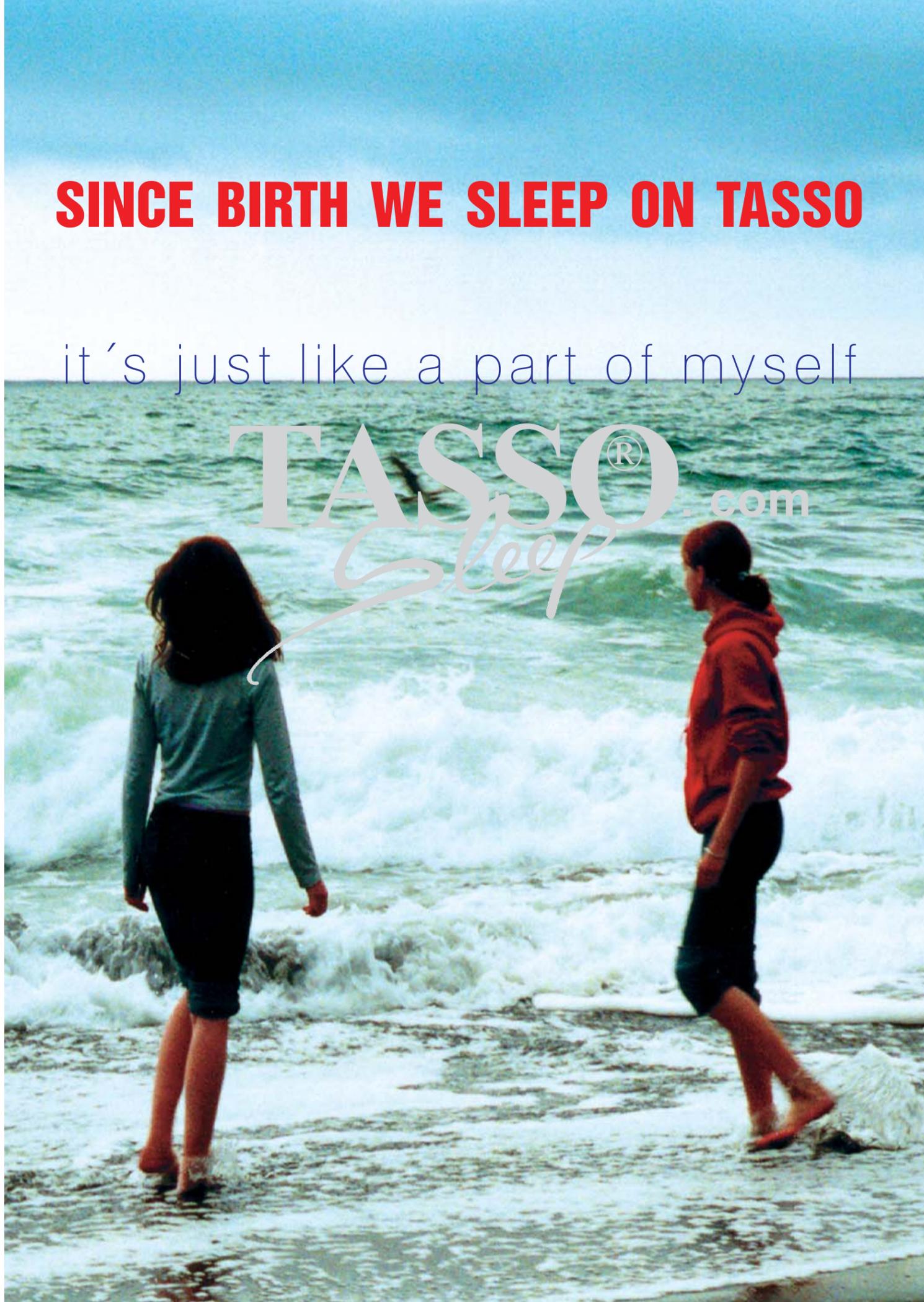
So should we do this?

Every night without it is a night wasted... And we do need a few weeks to get it ready... And you can choose a delivery date based on the budget you have!

SINCE BIRTH WE SLEEP ON TASSO

it's just like a part of myself

TASSO®
Sleep .com



NO LONGER BACKPAIN

BORN OUT OF WATER - SLEEP ON WATER - THE UNCOMPARABLE ART OF REST

- 1973: Begin of german development for waterbeds at the University of Wuppertal. Start of Tassobed production in germany with some imported components.
- 1983: Tassobed production 100% made in germany; watermattresses free of critical heavy metals and plasticizers. First scientific results about the benefits of Tassobeds in sports by Pro.Dr. Bram van Dam. New 10.000 square meter factory in Westfalia. Berti Vogts, germans national first football (soccer) trainer after Beckenbauer buys his Tassobed and produces interest in the profi sportsmen league.
- 1987: Olympiagold in Seoul with the regenerativ Tasso-Sleep. Firefighters install Tassobeds in their station. The Tasso-Prenatal®-Room shows considerably results with its total body music relaxation also for heavy handicapped and rehabilitations. Tasso Babybed success in clinics and privacy. Dogs healing (broken hip) with Tasso Doggy bed. New 2400 square meter production facility. First ceramic insolated waterbed heatingsystem. Significant success in raising of animals with Tasso-nest at the university of Giessen. First Doctor graduation about Tassobeds at the uni of Muenster. First Polymer waterconditioner for double life expectancy of watermattresses. Development and building of the Tasso-Space-Bed with NASA and Uni Munich for ISS and Marsstation. After 10 years succes at the fire-stations declared for standards. Power companies promote Tassobeds.
- 1988: Wellness and MediClub pro Tassobeds. First real ceramic heating system with natural selfregulation, safety and no radiation. Tassobeds for the Marsstation in Utah. More profi sportsmen and worldchampions choose Tasso-Regeneration. First complete Öko-Tex waterbed. TassoMed verse celulity. New Vinyl generation. Tasso-Niveau, first bio-mechanic self adjusting fill depth for different users (weight).
- 1989: Ultra conditioner, much more than only life extender for the system. MAXI-System for XXL people together with S sized partners in smaler beds. New horizons for human regeneration.
- 1990: Tasso-Sleep. Firefighters install Tassobeds in their station. The Tasso-Prenatal®-Room shows considerably results with its total body music relaxation also for heavy handicapped and rehabilitations. Tasso Babybed success in clinics and privacy. Dogs healing (broken hip) with Tasso Doggy bed. New 2400 square meter production facility. First ceramic insolated waterbed heatingsystem. Significant success in raising of animals with Tasso-nest at the university of Giessen. First Doctor graduation about Tassobeds at the uni of Muenster. First Polymer waterconditioner for double life expectancy of watermattresses. Development and building of the Tasso-Space-Bed with NASA and Uni Munich for ISS and Marsstation. After 10 years succes at the fire-stations declared for standards. Power companies promote Tassobeds.
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- 2001: Ultra conditioner, much more than only life extender for the system. MAXI-System for XXL people together with S sized partners in smaler beds. New horizons for human regeneration.
- 2002: Tasso-Sleep. Firefighters install Tassobeds in their station. The Tasso-Prenatal®-Room shows considerably results with its total body music relaxation also for heavy handicapped and rehabilitations. Tasso Babybed success in clinics and privacy. Dogs healing (broken hip) with Tasso Doggy bed. New 2400 square meter production facility. First ceramic insolated waterbed heatingsystem. Significant success in raising of animals with Tasso-nest at the university of Giessen. First Doctor graduation about Tassobeds at the uni of Muenster. First Polymer waterconditioner for double life expectancy of watermattresses. Development and building of the Tasso-Space-Bed with NASA and Uni Munich for ISS and Marsstation. After 10 years succes at the fire-stations declared for standards. Power companies promote Tassobeds.
- 2003: Wellness and MediClub pro Tassobeds. First real ceramic heating system with natural selfregulation, safety and no radiation. Tassobeds for the Marsstation in Utah. More profi sportsmen and worldchampions choose Tasso-Regeneration. First complete Öko-Tex waterbed. TassoMed verse celulity. New Vinyl generation. Tasso-Niveau, first bio-mechanic self adjusting fill depth for different users (weight).
- 2004: Ultra conditioner, much more than only life extender for the system. MAXI-System for XXL people together with S sized partners in smaler beds. New horizons for human regeneration.

WASSERBETS TASSO

