

THE NEW GENERATION OF DAIRY FLOORING

In an attempt to provide the best possible cubicle environment, today's dairy farmer is faced with a wider choice of flooring options than ever before. There's a long wishlist of benefits you hope the right flooring can deliver:

- Cow comfort
- Cost-effectiveness
- Improved productivity
- Reduced lameness and injury
- Improved hygiene
- Durability, and performance over time
- Ease of installation and maintenance
- Cost savings in bedding and labour
- Reduction in slurry/waste
- Adapts to existing cubicles
- A manufacturer's guarantee that's worth something

Inevitably, it's difficult to find a solution that enables you to tick every one of these boxes. Compromise is often the key word. Traditional beddings, while easily available and requiring no up front investment, can expose the cow to injury and lameness on the concrete subfloor, and generate high levels of waste. Simple rubber mats, while easy to install and maintain, may be considered too hard – not offering much of an improvement on concrete. Even soft mattress systems have their drawbacks, as the core material compresses over time with a corresponding reduction in comfort levels (the same is true for EVA mats with their high air content). Mattresses with a continuous top surface are time consuming to install and problematic if damaged. Other new surfaces such as sand and paper shred are beneficial in controlling bacterial infection, but can pose problems in terms of disposal.

Roll on the next generation of flooring systems, that will take the best features of current alternatives and solve some of the outstanding problems! Kraiburg, Europe's leading manufacturer of rubber flooring for dairy use, is a fresh face on the UK scene but brings a pedigree of more



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than 30 years field experience across Europe, combined with a continuous programme of research and development. Kraiburg's new contribution to the flooring conundrum is the KKM Super Soft Mat – the rubber mat that behaves like a mattress. This time, they really have tried to think of everything! Made from 100% solid rubber that will not break up, rot or compress, the secret of the KKM is its innovative honeycomb texturing on the underside, which is highly abrasion resistant yet creates a cushion of air that offers the cow the same excellent comfort as a much thicker mattress. Because the rubber is resilient and dimensionally stable, this comfort level is maintained over time, with the same performance on day 1 as day 3001.



As these are individual mats, installation is quick and simple, and should a mat be damaged it can be easily replaced. To minimise soil accumulation under the mat, each one has a chamfered edge and sealing lip on the heelstone end. In addition, mat joins are covered by a t-bar, or the KKM also comes in a puzzle version with neat interlocks; the overall effect is a hygienic surface and minimal ingress of liquid. Bedding can be reduced right down, with the corresponding reductions in waste and cleaning time. From the cow's point of view, the mat surface is highly elastic with a specially designed textured profile to give improved grip and slip resistance. As with a mattress system, the KKM is proven to promote lying and rumination time while reducing the instance of lameness and injury.

All these benefits are backed up by a 10 year manufacturer guarantee against wearing out – and because Kraiburg has been around for decades, it's a guarantee that really is worth the paper it's written on. So, back to the wishlist: with KKM there's a tick against every box.

KKM is available in the UK from Batchelor Enterprises, main agents for Kraiburg, on 01258 817801 fax 01258 817004. Batchelors can supply KKM only or as part of a full cubicle system.