

Hawaii Medical
Shell-O™ Gel Pillow FAQs
Frequently Asked Questions

Q How is the Shell-O used?

As a pillow to minimize head molding or flattening
As a prone roll under the infant to provide support
As a mattress for micro-preemies
As a pillow for immobilized patients (adults, kids and babies) to minimize skin breakdown
As a support for breathing circuit tubes

Q Any cautions when using?

Single patient use only
Do not x-ray through pillow
Do not allow baby to lay face down. DANGER of suffocation
Do not microwave
Not for home use
ALWAYS monitor baby
ALWAYS warm before use
ALWAYS cover with the Shell-O disposable cover or soft material

Q How long will Shell-O last?

Minimum 12 months on the shelf, in original plastic bag
Typically for entire length of a baby's stay
Lasts significantly longer than other brands. Single patient use only
Will lose some thickness (15% +/-) over six-month period

Q Cleaning?

Clean with standard hospital disinfectants.

Q Sterilization?

No. We have not done testing in this area.

Q What about x-Ray?

Do not x-ray though the Shell-O. Bubbles in the gel may cause a misdiagnosis.

Q Why is warming important?

Warming is critical. A cold surface will pull heat out of the baby. (Think about sleeping on an un-heated water mattress!)

Q How do you warm Shell-O up?

Keep spares in warm incubator.
Under warm running water (put in plastic bag first).

Q Can you Microwave the Shell-O?

Absolutely NOT! Causes un-even hot spots. The Shell-O overheats easily.
Blanket warmers also NOT recommended – can cause uneven hot spots.

Q Home use?

No, hospital use only.

Q Covers and Disposable covers?

Gel pillow should be covered with a soft cover.
Shell-O disposable non-woven covers are ideal but a baby blanket or cloth diaper also will work.

Q Clinical people that use the Shell-O?

NICU staff nurses; Developmental specialists; Occupational/Physical Therapists in the NICU; Respiratory Therapy- (tube supports)

Q How do you use the 6" x 9" size Shell-O?

Head support for kids and adults (fold in half for adults)
Mattress for micro-preemies
Prone roll (folded in half long way for preemies to lie on)



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