

vita talalay BY RADIUM FOAM SLEEP ON AIR

VITA TALALAY LATEX VERSUS DUST MITES

House dust mites are frequently present as uninvited guests in our bedroom. Beds are their prime habitat (where we spend 1/3 of our lives sleeping) and a typical used mattress may have 100,000 to 10 million mites inside. As much as ten percent of a two year old pillow's weight can be composed of dead mites and their droppings. House dust mites thrive in mattresses, carpets, furniture and bedding, with around 100–500 animals/gram of dust. They prefer warm, moist surroundings such as the inside of a mattress with someone on it and a favourite food is dander—flakes of dead skin. Humans shed about 1/5 ounce of dander each week and about 80 percent of the material seen floating in a sunbeam is actually skin flakes. Bedroom carpeting and household upholstery also support high house dust mite populations.

House dust mites are a common cause of asthma and allergic symptoms worldwide. The mite's gut contains potent digestive enzymes (notably proteases) that persist in their feces and are major inducers of allergic reactions such as wheezing. Their exoskeleton can also contribute to allergic reactions.

THE OPEN CELL STRUCTURE

The round open cell structure of Vita Talalay latex provides necessary ventilation inside the mattress. This results in an environment unattractive for dust mites.



House dust mites are very small and barely visible to the unaided eye, measuring 0.25–0.3mm (0.010–0.012 in) in length. Accurate identification requires a magnification of at least x10. The average life cycle for a male house dust mite is 10 to 19 days. A female house dust mite can live up to 70 days, laying 60 to 100 eggs in the last 5 weeks of her life.



Vita Talalay has unique properties that are also anti-dust mite. We asked the following questions:

- 1 Does latex foam have an effect on the growth/mortality of house dust mites?
- 2 How does it compare with other bedding materials?

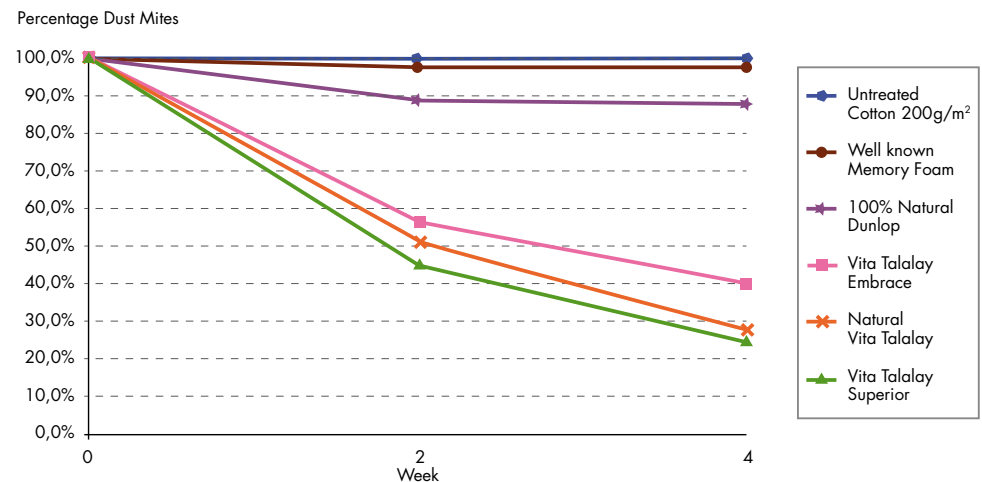
In order to answer these questions, the external French laboratory "Laboratoire TEC" conducted tests using the following products: a well-known memory foam, VITA Talalay Embrace, VITA Talalay Superior, 100% Natural Dunlop Latex and Natural VITA Talalay. See infographic.

[See infographic](#)

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MORTALITY PERCENTAGES OF HOUSE DUST MITES IN DIFFERENT MATERIALS



According to Bruno Serrano, TEC Director Insecticides and insect repellent testing, the tests indicate that all Vita Talalay Latex products show a considerable reduction of dust mites: 60% - 75% in the span of 4 weeks, even with the presence of food (the dust mites were fed brewer's yeast and wheat germ.)

The control sample, in this case cotton, did not show any dust mite reduction while the 100% natural Dunlop foam only achieved 11% and the memory foam less than 2% reduction. Compared to the average 70%* reduction of Vita Talalay it can be said that Vita Talalay gives no ground for dust mite allergy to develop.

* There is no significant difference in the reduction of dust mites between Vita Talalay Embrace, Vita Talalay Superior and Natural Vita Talalay.

