



## Soy-Based Mattress Foam Gives Petrochemicals a Rest



You'll spend about a third of your life lying on your mattress. According to Denver Mattress, one of the largest mattress manufacturers in the United States, you could be spending that time on a mattress that offers benefits for both you and the environment.

In the quilted top layer of nearly all of its mattresses, Denver Mattress uses between one and three inches of soy-based foam. The foam, called BioFlex™

Hybrid Foam, contains Cargill's BiOH® soy-based polyol. The United Soybean Board (USB) and soybean checkoff provided funding to Pittsburg State University in Kansas to develop the technology that led to BiOH.

According to Bob Rensink, general manager of Denver Mattress Manufacturing, the BioFlex high-density foam used by Denver Mattress achieves a perfect balance between biobased content and performance. According to its manufacturer, Flexible Foam Products, Inc., BioFlex boasts equal, if not better, performance in several standard measurements for furniture-grade foams, including support factor ratio; tensile, tear and elongation strength; height loss; and indentation force deflection, compared with petrochemical-based foams.

"The higher the density, the longer lasting it is," says Rensink. "And we use a higher density than most of our competitors, giving us a product that maintains its height, strength and firmness." BioFlex, with at least 20 percent biocontent, represents one more product in which manufacturers have replaced imported fossil fuels with renewable U.S. soy. Compared with conventional petrochemical-based foams, BioFlex requires 61 percent less nonrenewable energy, leads to 36 percent less global warming emissions and will save more than 50,000 barrels of oil per year, according to a third-party life-cycle analysis.

"According to surveys, the American public will buy green as long as the product offers equal quality and price," says Michael Crowell, vice president of marketing for Flexible Foam Products. "BioFlex offers at least as high a quality as other mattresses, and we have never charged a premium for any of our soy foams."

Denver Mattress, a Furniture Row company, manufactures its mattresses in the United States and sells them directly through its nationwide chain of retail stores, which it says helps keep prices low.

For more information on Denver Mattress, visit [denvermattress.com](http://denvermattress.com). To learn more about Flexible Foam Products and BioFlex, click [here](#).