

The best way to prolong the life of your Therm-A-Rest mattress is to wash it after each use with a mild soap and allow the mattress to thoroughly dry before storing it away. Many different natural and manmade compounds either directly or indirectly affect the coating on your mattress. An example of a manmade compound would be sunscreen or insect repellents containing deet. Natural oils such as Sebum (a type of sweat) which is secreted by the sebaceous glands at the base of each hair follicle contains fatty acids and proteins as well as urea, ammonia, salt and uric acid. Although the uric acid and ammonia can eventually breakdown the coating used on the Therm-A-Rest fabric, breakdown usually occurs as a result of bacteria or fungus living off these fats and proteins. Bacteria and fungi secrete enzymes which act as a digestive agent breaking down organic and inorganic compounds into edible material. These enzymes will eventually dissolve the fabric coating causing pin holes or breaking down the foam bond, which results in a delamination (blister).

x Although the coatings used on Therm-A-Rest fabrics are synthetic and have additives to minimize fungal and bacterial growth they can not completely stop the growth. As long as the mattress contains a food source for these organisms they will continue to thrive. The break down of the coatings does not happen quickly, so with a little effort you can stop these organisms by eliminating their food source. The best way to eliminate their food source and halt this growth is to wash your mattress after each use and allow it to dry. This will kill the bacteria and fungi increasing the life of your Therm-A-Rest. x

If you have other questions or concerns please contact us at consumer@cascadedesigns.com