

## WHY SPECIFY BARRIER MATTING?

Before we get into the technicalities of matting, we first need to understand why you would need to use barrier matting.

### Legality:

The Health & Safety Executive have noted that 90% of slip accidents in public buildings happen on a wet floor. Barrier matting can reduce the amount of dirt and moisture tracked into a building by up to 90%, helping to reduce the risk of these slips from happening.

### Protection:

An effective matting system removes and retains dirt, keeping other adjacent internal floors clean, reducing the requirement for unnecessary maintenance and replacement.

### Cost reduction:

Barrier matting reduces maintenance costs dramatically by decreasing the amount of cleaning required on adjacent floor coverings. It also increases the life expectancy of floorcoverings.

## CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SPECIFYING BARRIER MATTING

### Expected traffic types

The choice of matting should be versatile enough to accommodate both foot and wheeled traffic requirements. However, it's crucial to consider the intensity of each traffic type to determine the most suitable specification for the environment. For instance, in an office setting, pedestrian traffic predominates, with only occasional wheeled traffic. Conversely, in a supermarket, there is a high influx of both foot and wheeled traffic to consider when selecting the appropriate matting solution.

### Foot Traffic



More than 5,000 crossings per day

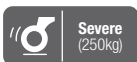
Examples - railway station, stadiums, airports, shopping centres, large hospitals, supermarkets & department stores



More than 500 crossings per day

Examples - offices, hospitals, schools, high street shops & hotels

### Typical types of wheeled traffic



Forklift Truck



Cherry Picker



Pallet Truck



Retail Cage



Shopping Trolley



Box Truck



Baggage Trolley



Shopping Trolley



Suitcase



Wheelchair

## THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

This includes factors like whether the entrance opens directly onto the street and whether there is a protective canopy against the elements. In the absence of such protection, it is advisable to consider a heavier-duty entrance mat capable of handling more substantial levels of dirt and moisture retention. If the mat is not adequately specified, it can quickly become saturated and lose its effectiveness in retaining moisture, leading to the tracking of contaminants onto nearby floor coverings and heightening the risk of slip, trip, and fall accidents.



## PEAK FLOW RATE – ALSO REFERRED TO AS VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

This is a metric that forecasts traffic concentration and identifies the crucial times of day when individuals enter or exit a building. For instance, in a school, there are two main peak traffic times, warranting the use of a heavy-duty mat to handle high traffic volumes. Conversely, a high street shop experiences a steady flow of traffic where a combination of primary and secondary matting can be considered, particularly where the size of an existing matwell may be a restriction.

## CONSIDERING ALUMINIUM ENTRANCE MATS?

To make an informed choice, consider the level of light, if the mat is situated in or nearby a glass atrium. These factors could potentially cause visual distortion or strobing effects. If this is a concern, it might be prudent to consider using anodised aluminium instead of mill finish, as it can help minimise the risk of such issues.

## HOW TO ZONE-SPECIFIC BARRIER MATTING

At Gradus we use a zoning system when specifying barrier matting, zones 1-4. Using the info-graphic for reference, please see below which of our ranges we would specify for each zone.

### Where to use Barrier Matting

**Zone 3 - Interior Circulation Areas & Some Interior Entrances & Access Points**  
Secondary Barrier Matting

**Zone 4 - Other Areas**  
Secondary Barrier Matting



**Zone 1 - Exterior Entrances & Access Points**  
Primary Barrier Matting

**Zone 2 - Interior Entrances & Access Points**  
Primary Barrier Matting & Hybrid Barrier Matting

### Zone 2 – Interior Entrances & Access Points

For zone 2 you would be looking at specifying Primary and/or Hybrid barrier matting. This zone relates to areas directly at the entrances to the building. Ranges that could be specified are Esplanade, Topguard and Tyreguard. Mat-in-a-Box and Access. Each have different specifications within their ranges to suit different types and volumes of traffic.



### Zone 1 – Exterior Entrances and Access Points

This zone relates to exterior matting, we would, for this zone, use primary barrier matting, with a plain wiper suited to outdoor use. The ranges we provide for this are Esplanade & Tyreguard. Within each range we have a number of options to suit different types of traffic.



### Zone 3 – Interior Circulation Areas and Some Interior Entrances & Access Points

In zone 3, you would look to specify Secondary barrier matting. This zone relates to additional matting required, either in conjunction with Primary and Hybrid Matting, or as a stand alone mat at entrances to communal areas. Boulevard secondary barrier matting is available in different specifications to suit different types and volumes of traffic as well as provide a choice of aesthetics.



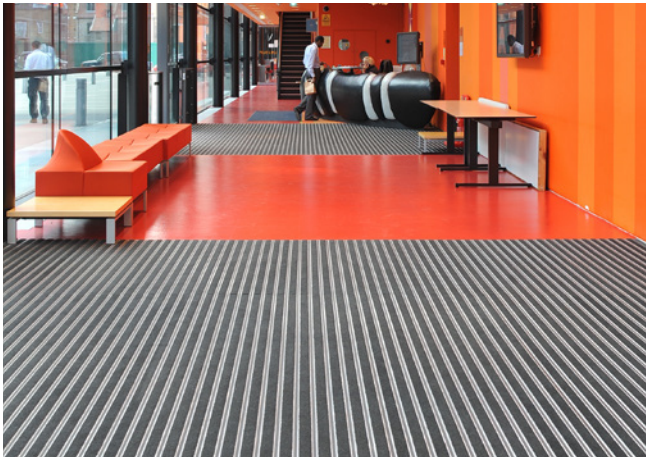
### Zone 4 – Other Areas

For zone 4, we would specify Boulevard secondary barrier matting. We would specify this matting for entrances to communal areas, whether this be for canteens or lift lobbies etc. As these are heavy traffic areas, the secondary matting would further prevent dirt and moisture from damaging other internal floor coverings and act as a hard-wearing solution.

## WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF EACH MATTING TYPE?

### Primary matting for internal and external entrances

Primary barrier matting possesses key features that make it well-suited for internal and external use. Firstly, it effectively eliminates excess dirt and debris before individuals enter a building, thanks to its scraper wiper feature. This not only helps maintain cleanliness indoors but also extends the lifespan of interior floor coverings.



External primary matting enhances the overall efficiency of internal primary, secondary, and hybrid matting by preventing coarse dirt from reaching these areas, further ensuring a cleaner and safer indoor environment. Primary matting offers versatility by being available in both open and closed construction variants, catering to diverse entrance requirements. Their adaptability is further underscored by the availability of different gauges, making them suitable for both recessed and surface-mounted installations.

Primary barrier matting is particularly advantageous in high-traffic areas, where it can withstand heavy use and consistently perform its dirt-trapping function. Altogether, these attributes highlight its importance in maintaining both cleanliness and safety at the entrances of buildings.



### Secondary barrier matting for circulation areas & access points

Secondary barrier matting offers a range of key features that enhance its practicality and effectiveness. Typically used in conjunction with primary matting, it provides an additional layer of protection for floor coverings. However, it also has the versatility to function as a standalone mat when needed. This type of matting is particularly well-suited for high-traffic areas such as reception areas, lobbies, lifts, and stairs, although it's worth noting that Boulevard Stripe and 7000 are not recommended for staircase use. One standout feature of our secondary matting is its exceptional ability to maintain its appearance, especially when cleaned in accordance with Gradus guidelines. Additionally, the Boulevard 5000 and 6000, offer the convenience of both tile and sheet formats, providing flexibility in design integration. These attributes collectively make secondary barrier matting a valuable choice for preserving the aesthetics and longevity of floor coverings in various settings.



### Hybrid matting for internal entrances

Hybrid matting provides an alternative solution to a primary mat, with the added benefit of being quick and easy to install. Hybrid matting is available in a choice of options and is suitable for medium or light traffic areas depending on the product selected.

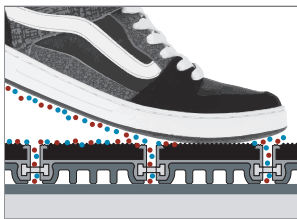


## SO, WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRIMARY & HYBRID MATTING AND HOW DO THEY PERFORM?

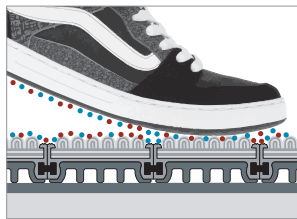
**Open construction:** This type of primary matting incorporates space between the wipers, allowing dirt and moisture to fall through into the matwell below, which can be lifted intermittently to remove debris and for a deep clean of the mat too.

**Closed construction:** This type of primary and hybrid matting does not have any space between the wipers, meaning that dirt and moisture remains on the surface of the mat, removable by regular cleaning and during a deep clean.

### Open Construction



### Closed Construction



### Open Construction



### Closed Construction



## CLEANLINESS IS KEY FOR PERFORMANCE

A well-planned cleaning and maintenance program is essential to preserve Gradus barrier matting's performance and appearance, extending its lifespan. Regular and deep cleaning is key and ideally a trained professional should carry out the maintenance.

### Daily Cleaning

Sweep and vacuum daily with a heavy-duty upright vacuum cleaner or tub vacuum with a power head to eliminate surface dirt. Check for, and remove, chewing gum when needed. When the matting is wet, use a wet pick-up machine to extract water and soil efficiently.

### Deep Cleaning

Deep clean the matting weekly or monthly based on weather and traffic. Utilise available equipment for this task. Always precede deep cleaning with brushing and vacuuming. Focus on stains by applying carpet spot and stain remover, and chewing gum remover if needed.

The cleaning professional may consider a combination of a rotary scrubbing machine fitted with a carpet brush and extraction equipment to get improved results.

## WIPER OPTIONS

The type and amount of wiper material will determine how effectively the mat performs when removing dirt and moisture from foot and wheeled traffic.

### High Moisture & Dirt Removal



#### Wiper options

#### Double wiper configuration

Esplanade 9000, Esplanade 8500, Topguard & Tyreguard

#### Single wiper configuration

Esplanade 6000, Esplanade 5000, Access 6000, Access 5000, Mat-in-a-Box 6000 & Mat-in-a-Box 5000

### Medium Moisture & Dirt Removal



#### Wiper options

#### Single wiper configuration

Esplanade 9000, Esplanade 8500, Topguard, Tyreguard, Esplanade 1500, Esplanade 1000 & Mat-in-a-Box 1550

