



During testing, we cut into each mattress to document its construction. Here, the Avocado Green.



This cutaway of the Avocado Pillowtop mattress reveals a similar construction with a 2-inch foam topper.

sleep, with one exception: It earns a rating of Very Good for petite side-sleeper support. The Green Pillowtop earns lower support ratings across the board: Very Good for side and back support for all sizes, save one. For large/tall back sleepers, the mattress earns a middling Good rating.

Firmness, Stabilization, and Other Results

Our tests find that the Green Pillowtop traps more body heat and might make you feel warmer as you sleep. This could be due to the extra layer of foam in the topper—in our tests, foam seems to contribute to trapping and retaining heat.

It's no surprise that the Green Pillowtop mattress is softer, earning a firmness rating of 5, whereas the firmer Green scores a 7 (on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the firmest).

Both earn a middle-of-the-road stabilization rating, meaning you might feel your partner shift on the mattress during the night. They also rate similarly for durability, or their ability to retain support after eight to 10 years of simulated use by using a 308-pound roller that passes over each mattress 30,000 times.

Last, because the Green Pillowtop is 2 inches taller than the Green, you'll have to find sheets that can fit a 13-inch-tall mattress (the height of the Green Pillowtop). Our recent testing of cotton bed sheets found that a few sets we tested could not fit a 14-inch mattress after less than a year's worth of washing.

The Winner

"Both mattresses do very well in our tests," says Christopher Regan, the CR engineer who oversees our mattress tests. "Ultimately, though, the Avocado Green without the pillowtop provides better support for more body sizes and sleep styles—and might give you more satisfaction in the long run."

And, it's hard to argue with the test results. The Avocado Green, with an Overall Score of 85, sits in the top spot of our innerspring mattress ratings. (It earned the top spot one year ago after ousting the previous champ of three years, the Charles P. Rogers Powercore Estate.)

The Green wins in our crucial support test because it provides better spine support for almost every body size and sleep style. That said, the Green Pillowtop still ranks above dozens of other innerspring mattresses in our ratings (it takes the third slot out of more than 70 innerspring models).

If you prefer your mattress to be a little softer and/or you don't mind sleeping a little warmer—and don't mind paying a little extra for the added layer—then perhaps the pillowtop version is for you. The Green Pillowtop is still a great mattress with an Overall Score of 79, behind the Avocado Green and the Charles P. Rogers Powercore Estate.

For more mattress options, see our mattress ratings of more than 130 adjustable air, foam, and innerspring mattresses.

SAMPLE