VIRCO GLIDES - Choices to Match Your Flooring
Now you have choices when deciding on the best performing furniture glides for your flooring.
Glide Options

Virco’s extensive swivel glide program enables you to evaluate and choose the best glide solutions for your particular classrooms. The great assortment of Virco 4-leg chairs, combos, tablet arms and student desks shown in this brochure – all of which have standard nylon-base swivel glides – can also be ordered with optional steel-base, felt-base or rubber-base swivel glides.

While we at Virco are happy to provide you with the following information about our swivel glide alternatives, it’s important to note that only you can decide which glide solution is most appropriate for your facility. Before making this decision, you may want to consider evaluating your facility’s various flooring surfaces and reviewing your floor care program in consultation with your maintenance staff.

The Virco product lines pictured below are standard with nylon-base swivel glides, and are available with optional steel-, felt- or rubber-base swivel glides. Optional non-swivel felt-base and rubber-base glides are also available for Virco’s TEXT® Series single-student desks, which come standard with non-swivel nylon glides.
Virco Glide Solutions

Sometimes the smallest things can present the biggest challenges. For years the frictional interface between classroom chairs and classroom floors – those little feet known as “glides” – have been the focus of teacher, student, and facility manager frustration because of their perceived responsibility for excessively worn or damaged floors. As with any two-part system (and there are really more than two parts to this system) full responsibility lies with neither element, but it’s safe to say that glides were ripe for a re-design.

At Virco, we’ve listened carefully, performed extensive testing, and come up with a new series of glides designed for use on specific floor surfaces. Several of our designs are innovative enough that we’ve submitted them for patent protection. We’re confident that we now offer the industry’s most innovative selection of glide designs and glide materials, allowing you to choose the glide that best suits your applications and your floors.

NO MORE TENNIS BALL BOOTS

The key to our current thinking was re-conceiving the glide as a “wear surface.” Changes in the design and raw materials of vinyl composite tiles (VCT), the most common classroom flooring, as well as reductions in the frequency of cleaning and waxing due to budget constraints, both increased the susceptibility of VCT floors to abrasion and wear by glides. This reality places a higher burden on the small wear surface of the glide to be softer and friendlier to the floor while still lasting long enough to provide good value and not be the “weak link” in a much more expensive chair, combo, or desk. After extensive research, we located a source for industrial-grade felt made out of long-fiber natural sheep wool that meets our new standards of combined softness and durability. More importantly, we’ve bonded this felt (as opposed to merely gluing it) to the traditional nylon swivel base that’s been the industry standard for generations. This hybrid design allows the felt wear surface to remain flat and flush to the floor even when students tilt back in their chairs. We’ve even extended the swivel felt design to cantilever chair glides, a first for this category.

MORE SURFACE AREA IS BETTER

Not content to stop with long-fiber felt, we re-examined traditional materials such as nylon, steel, and rubber. In the case of each of these materials, we were able to integrate them into the new designs. In addition, we

Nylon-Base Glides

The standard glide for Virco’s 4-leg chairs, combos, tablet arms and student desks is nylon-base unless otherwise noted. This new glide has a 30% larger nylon base for better contact with the floor. Nylon-base swivel glides provide the best performance overall for multiple floor applications within an institution. Note: This is the standard glide configuration on all applicable Quick Ship products.

Felt-Base Glides

Felt-base, designated by “FLT” at the end of a model number. This new glide also has a 30% larger felt base for better contact with the floor. Felt-base glides are the best choice for VCT flooring and gym wood flooring applications.
expanded the nylon, felt and rubber surface area of our swivel glides by 30%, providing for even wider distribution of impact force. Given that some VCT surfaces are only rated for 50 lbs. per square inch, these new larger wear surfaces could be the difference between dented and gouged floors or smooth ones, especially when chairs are tilted back and all of the student’s weight is concentrated on the two rear legs.

Finally, by offering a choice of all four materials on every glide, we give educators the freedom to specify the material that their experience in the classroom tells them is best. We still recommend a nylon wear surface for most general applications, but for exclusive use on VCT, some educators may prefer felt or rubber. Whichever wear surface you chose, the new larger surface area of our glides will provide better weight distribution. If you’d like to test drive our new glides (they are after all a lot like the tires on a new car), we can arrange a free classroom trial under real-life conditions.

WHEN THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

Lately we’ve received questions about rubber-base swivel glides. Why would someone choose a rubber base? How do they perform? First, the term “rubber” is very broad and can be misleading. What we’re really talking about is a plastic polymer with a lower “durometer” (hardness) that essentially makes it softer and stickier. This reduces the “slidability” of the glide when a student backs away from their desk, effectively lessening the load and wear on the floor. But it also makes the glide wear faster than harder materials such as nylon, steel, or even our new “long-fiber natural felt.” Nonetheless, based on the anecdotal success of some competitors’ rubber-base glides, we got requests to provide this material as an option.

We now have a number of 4-leg, rubber-base swivel glides in stock (graphite only). If you prefer this material, we can provide samples or even complete classrooms. Please understand, however, that rubber does not have the long and proven track record, or even the extensive testing (yet) that the rest of our materials have. Our feedback from field tests in Los Angeles is fairly positive, but eventually LAUSD decided to standardize on our new felt as the best combination of glidability, floor protection, and service life for the glide itself.

CONCLUSION

There is no “perfect” material for glides. Any material harder than VCT flooring will result in wear to the floor. Any material softer than VCT flooring will result in wear to the glide. It’s a frictional interface, and one of the surfaces just has to give. Understanding these trade-offs can help you make the best possible choice for your particular classrooms, floor surfaces, cleaning regimens, and furniture combinations.

Steel-Base Glides

Steel-base, designated by “SG” at the end of a model number. This is your best choice for concrete and asphalt flooring.

Rubber-Base Glides

Rubber-base, designated by “RG” at the end of a model number. Because rubber-base glides do not slide as easily as other swivel glides with nylon, steel or felt bases, they are recommended for VCT flooring, concrete and hardwood applications where it is desirable for chairs, combos, tablet arms and student desks to slide as little as possible.
Glide Applications

Nylon is the standard glide on Virco models listed on page 3. Steel-, felt- and rubber-base glides are also available. Below are images and descriptions of the various glide styles for selected Virco product lines.

Chrome Glide Sleeves

**SEATING**
- 120, 121 & 122 Series stools
- ZUMA® 4-leg stools
- ZUMA 4-leg 10” chair
- 2000 Series 4-leg chairs
- 3000 Series 4-leg chairs & stools
- 3300 Series 4-leg chairs
- 9000 Series 4-leg chairs

**COMBOS & TABLET ARMS**
- 2000 Series 4-leg combos & tablet arms
- 3000 Series 4-leg combos & tablet arms
- 9000 Series 4-leg combos & tablet arms

**TABLES & DESKS**
- 4000 Series tables
- 785 Series desks
- 72 Series desks
- 751 Series desks
- 765 Series desks

**Graphite Glide Sleeves**

**SEATING**
- ZUMA 4-leg chairs*
- ZUMAfrd™ 4-leg chairs
- Sage™ 4-leg chairs
- Metaphor® 4-leg chairs
- Telos® 4-leg chairs

**COMBOS & TABLET ARMS**
- ZUMA 4-leg combos & tablet arms
- ZUMAfrd® 4-leg combos
- Sage 4-leg combos & tablet arms
- Metaphor 4-leg combos & tablet arms
- Telos 4-leg combos

**DESKS**
- ZUMA Series 4-leg desks
- ZUMA Series ZBOOM desks
- I.Q.* Series 4-leg desks

* ZUMA 4-leg 10” chairs have a chrome sleeve.

Matching Color Glide Sleeves

ZUMA and Sage models listed below come standard with nylon-base glides with glide sleeves that match the color of the seat. Minimum orders and extended lead-times may apply on some colors. Steel-, felt- and rubber-base glide options are only available in Graphite.

**SEATING**
- ZUMA 4-leg chairs*
- Sage 4-leg chairs

**TABLET ARMS**
- ZUMA 4-leg tablet arms
- Sage 4-leg tablet arms

* ZUMA 4-leg 10” chairs have a chrome sleeve.

Matching Plastic Glide Sleeve Colors for Selected ZUMA and Sage Models with Nylon Glides