



Workplace Safety

## **Best Welding Mats—6 Things to Consider**

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**Spark-resistant mats** are an important component of welding safety and ergonomics. Spark- and heat-resistant mats are used interchangeably and a heat-resistant mat (or welding mat) would be used in any environment that sees sparks, hot shards, or small ignitions in industrial, commercial, or home welding activities.

*Here are 6 things to remember when choosing a welding mat:*

### **1. Welding Mats Now Offer Ergonomic, Anti-Fatigue Properties**

**Welding mats**, heavy spark-resistant mats, and fireproof mats have increased in quality in recent years and now offer top class anti-fatigue and ergonomic support for welders. A **quality mat with heavy spark resistance** should easily last 3-5 years, provide heat, spark, and fire resistance, and reduce stress on the joints of welders, workers, or team members. Choosing a welding matting solution should check all of those boxes to provide the optimal anti-fatigue and safety environment in your welding experience.

### **2. The Best Welding Mats Should Decrease Absenteeism**

Often companies will use a weld mat to protect the floor, but quality weld matting will protect the floor while providing much needed fatigue relief for welding workers. A welding floor mat can be the

difference between feeling good or feeling fatigued and tight at the end of a shift. In this way, spark-resistant floor mats (or high heat mats) help to save companies money. Employees who are too sore simply cannot work as efficiently as workers who feel refreshed. Not only will a quality **WeldSafe® mat** increase worker productivity, it can significantly decrease absenteeism when compared to non-welding matting.

### 3. The Best Welding Mats Should Prevent Fires

Preventing fires in these welding areas are key. While welding workstations are usually set up to avoid fires, a **fireproof mat** (or heat-resistant floor mat) will also provide a safe space for sparks to dissipate. In this way, fireproof matting is a both a safety product and an ergonomic product.



### 4. The Best Welding Mats Should Resist Hot Metal Shards

Metal cutting operations might refer to it as a welding safety mat, metal shard mat, or a cutting metal mat. No matter what you call it, a **spark-resistant mat** will benefit a worker and company at the same time. A proper welding mat will prevent hot metal shards from damaging the floor or other operations. This makes the area safer and cleaner. **Rubber welding matting** is a win-win for any company or team.

### 5. Some Welding Mats Just Protect the Floor

Sometimes you do not need the ergonomics, but you still need to protect the floor. For this, there is a **non-melting mat called a welding runner**. This is another type of 500 degree ignition mat, but it is meant mostly for protecting floors and does not help the worker with fatigue relief.

### 6. Choosing the Best Welding Mat

When purchasing a welding safety mat, be sure to consider all of your options. Do you need a large, custom-size welding mat? Do you like a **diamond-plate welding mat**, or a **traditional welding mat**? Does it need **premium ergonomics**? These will make your decision much easier. If you have further questions on welding mats, you can always reach out to a **matting expert** for some guidance.

*Previously Featured on Wearwell's blog.*