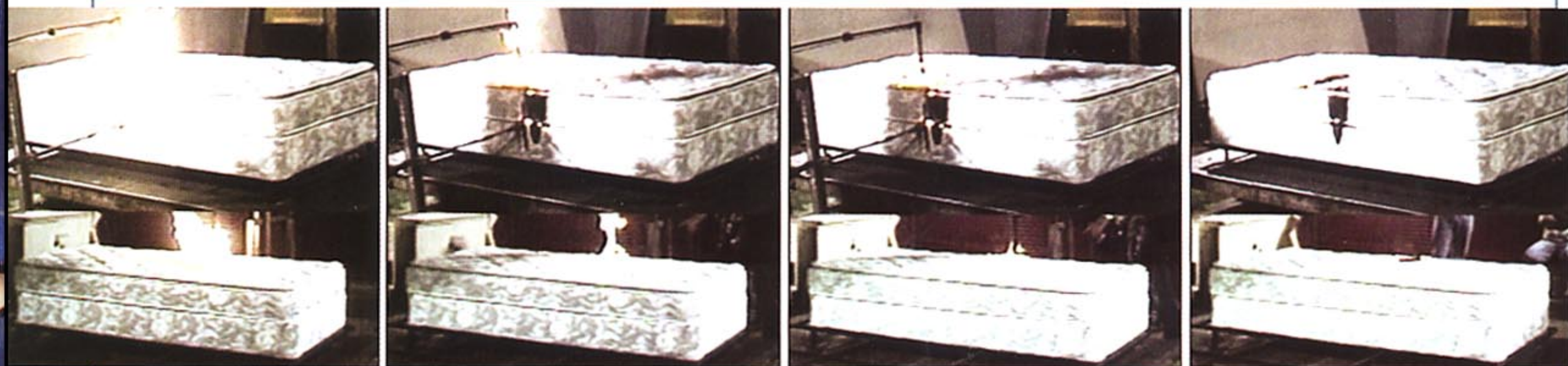


REVIEW

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These images illustrate the slow-burn rate of Precision Flame Protection (PFP), a nonwoven flame retardant that promises to help mattresses resist igniting for more than 30 minutes.

A safer night's sleep

From 1995 through 1999, mattresses and bedding were the first items to ignite in approximately 19,400 residential fires each year, resulting in an estimated 440 deaths, 2,230 injuries, and nearly \$274 million in property loss annually, according to the **Consumer Product Safety Commissions (CPSC)**. Totowa, N.J.-based **Precision Custom Coatings LLC** has developed, tested, and is now marketing a new fire barrier, Precision Flame Protection (PFP), a nonwoven flame-retardant product that promises to help mattresses resist igniting for more than 30 minutes.

PFP fabric can be wrapped around the foam core of a mattress and can rest behind the outer layer of fabric, effectively cutting off a fire from a major fuel source—the highly flammable polyurethane foam found in conventional mattresses.

When exposed to an open flame, the unprotected mattress foam quickly produces intense flames with high levels of heat and smoke that can spread within minutes to the surrounding room. The initial thick smoke can disable victims and prevent escape. Tests showed that mattresses using PFP fabric significantly resisted igniting and resulted in much less heat and smoke for more than 30 minutes, providing ample time for fire victims to become alert and escape.

The PFP fabric complies with the CPSC's open flame standard for mattress flammability and fire-resistant upholstered furniture, regulations that take effect in 2007. PFP was tested by **Underwriter Laboratories** and meets California's fire-safety standard, the most stringent standard for mattresses in the United States.