

# Velcro

## Research, Insights & DAC's Proposal

### Research

Hook and Loop (brand name Velcro) was used in the Occam project by design interns Ana De Pellegrin, Pietro Fareri and Hafeez Dawood, and was very popular with staff from HMP Pentonville as well as the wider MoJ team. These interns researched the use of hook and loop and were in contact with the Velcro brand (further details in Occam report below).

The psychological benefits of customisation is a theme that came up repeatedly throughout the project as it might help people feel a sense of connection with and control over their surroundings. In addition, it might have a humanising effect on the cell environment living space. Velcro systems afford greater opportunities for customisation.

### Insights

Velcro is already used in cells to put up curtains so there are existing suppliers, and the material is approved for use in terms of fire safety. One of the concerns about Velcro was the potential for it to be used as a ligature point but this was alleviated by limiting the surface area of the hook and loop to make sure it would give way if any excessive weight was applied.

### DAC's Proposal

If the MoJ would like to continue with the Occam designs, we would recommend adhesive backed Velcro as a material, specifically Loop 001, Loop Velour 3165 with hook 822.

## DAC Intern Design Report



**DAC Design Interns and BAPD (Hons) Graduates, *Ana De Pellegrin, Pietro Fareri, Hafeez Dawood* extensively researched, experimented, tested, and designed with cork and velcro.**

**Their report on cork can be found here:**

**Occam Furniture: Cork and Velcro Report**