

A woman in a white long-sleeved shirt and dark pants is standing at a workstation in a warehouse. She is looking at a computer monitor. The workstation is cluttered with various items, including a printer, a scanner, and several boxes. In the background, there are high shelves filled with boxes and other warehouse equipment. The floor is a light-colored concrete. In the foreground, there are several blue plastic bins stacked on the left and a grey bin on the right.

# 5 Key Steps When Sampling Anti-Fatigue Mats





## 1. Sample mats *in* production

52% of safety and production leaders say they expect their anti-fatigue mats to last 2+ years. Only 32% say they actually are lasting this long. Why the disconnect between expectation and reality? There's often a lack of research on the front end – i.e., you're not sampling mats *on* the production floor.





Don't lay mats in the cafeteria for operators to stand on during lunch breaks.



Don't put mats in breakrooms or entryways for brief walk-by trials.



Don't put mats in your office and call operators in 1-by-1 to stand on for a few minutes.



Always trial mats on the production floor.



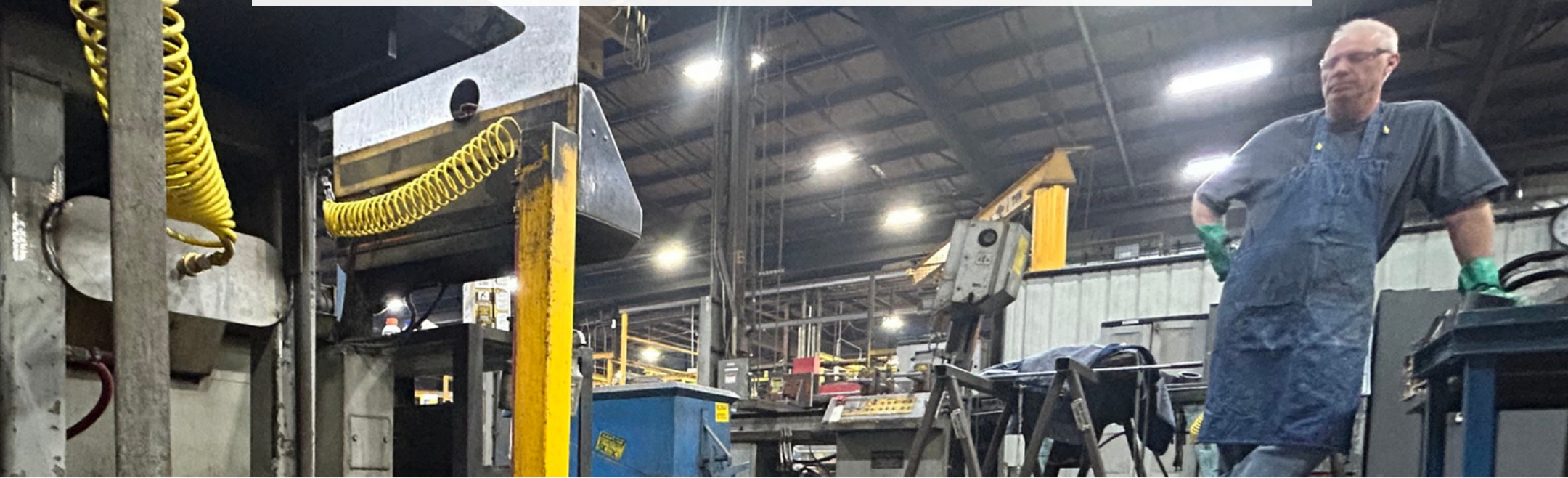
Always introduce the mats to the harshness of your environment.



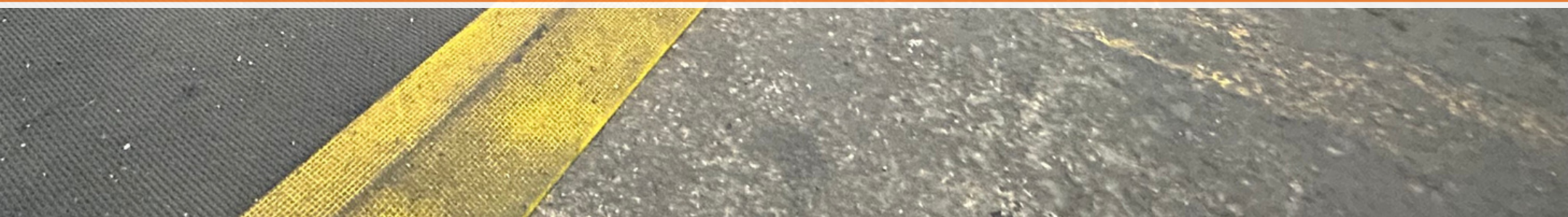
The most comfortable mat is worthless if it doesn't actually hold up in your environment.



## 2. Trial mats for 100-200 hours



Give every sample adequate time in your production environment. At least 100 working hours. If you're undertaking a large anti-fatigue mat project – for example, turning over all mats across your facility – considering 2X-ing this time period. Every “premium” anti-fatigue mat will last ~6 months. It's how they hold up after this point that matters most.





One week. That's how long it took before this automotive manufacturer's new welding mats began curling. Why? They bought without trialing the mats in production. You need mats that will integrate into your environment and keep your workforce safe for years at a time. Not something that looks nice for a couple days but creates trip hazards a week later.

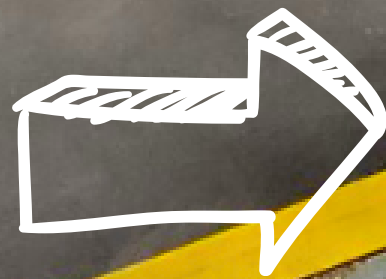






### 3. Never invest without operator feedback

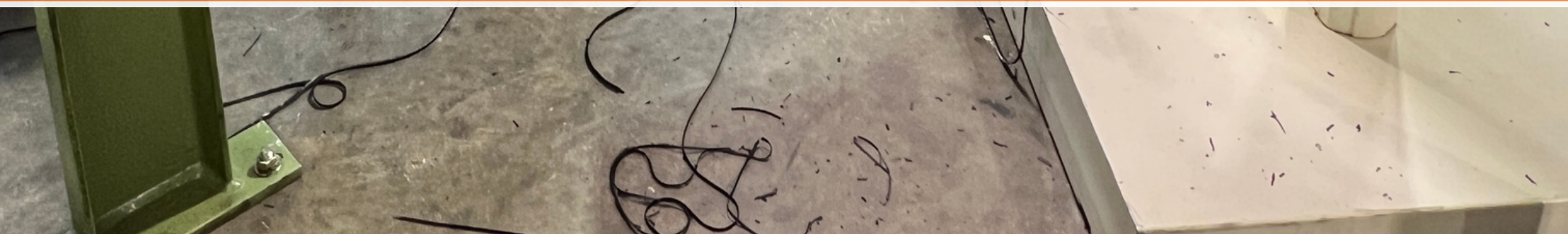
During a site visit to help a solar panel manufacturer, the corporate safety leader said one sample was far and away more comfortable than the others. We then asked an operator who stands 8-10 hours each shift: “It's too soft, my ankles feel like they're sinking.” While feedback from all sides is important, make sure you get honest, genuine feedback from the people who will be using the mats every day.







- ✓ Do you feel safe and physically supported?
- ✓ Has your mat been sliding around or curling?
- ✓ How do your feet, back and neck feel after each shift?
- ✓ How is the mat holding up to liquids and chemicals?
- ✓ Do you have any pains you can't connect to an impact injury?
- ✓ How would you compare the mat to what you were previously using?

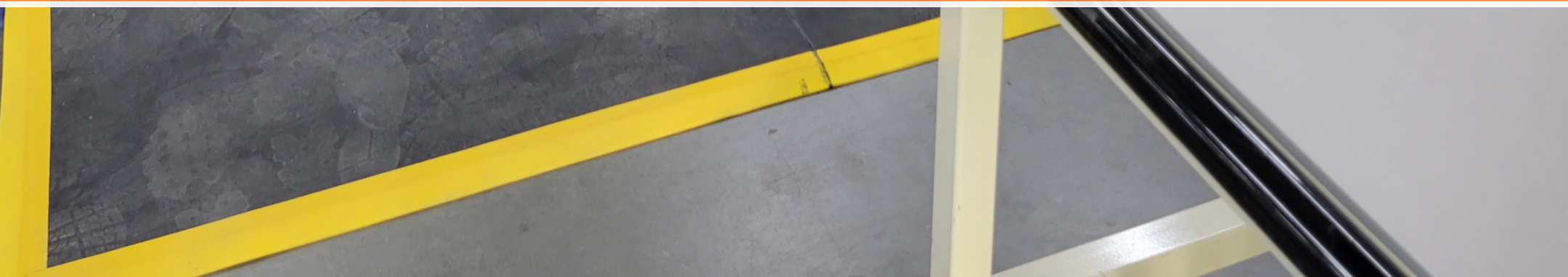




## 4. Consider comfort surveys



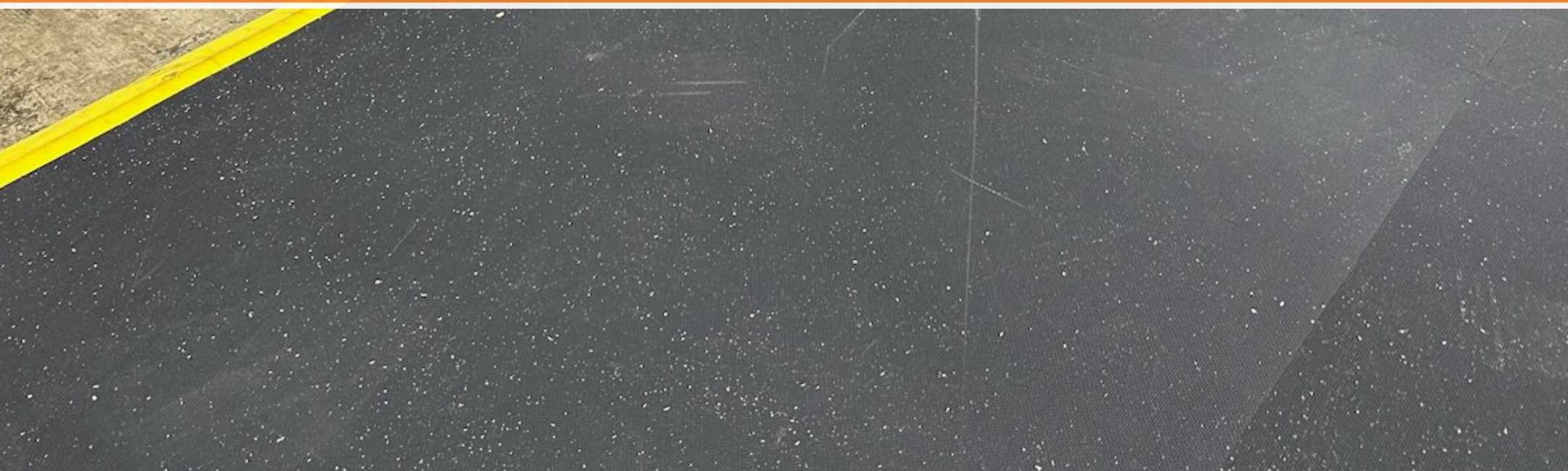
If you're undertaking a BIG mat project, rather than just a single workstation, comfort surveys can provide valuable feedback. "But only if they're done right," says Ergonomist Mary Plehal.





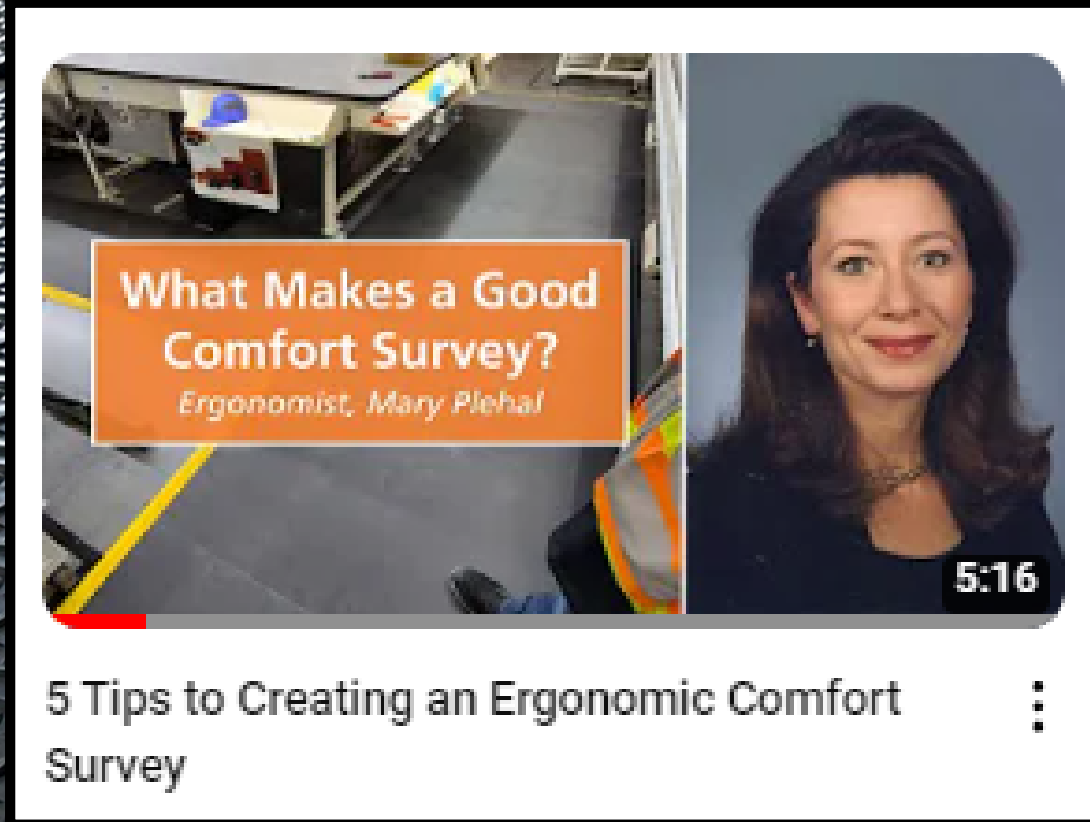


5 keys to a “comfort surveys done right,” says Mary:

- ✓ Organize by body part
  - ✓ Explain the purpose
  - ✓ Have pre-planned improvements in the works
  - ✓ Hold the survey in person
  - ✓ Re-administer the survey down the road
- 



Mary walks through all 5 steps in this video on the AcroMat YouTube channel! (@acromat\_custommats)





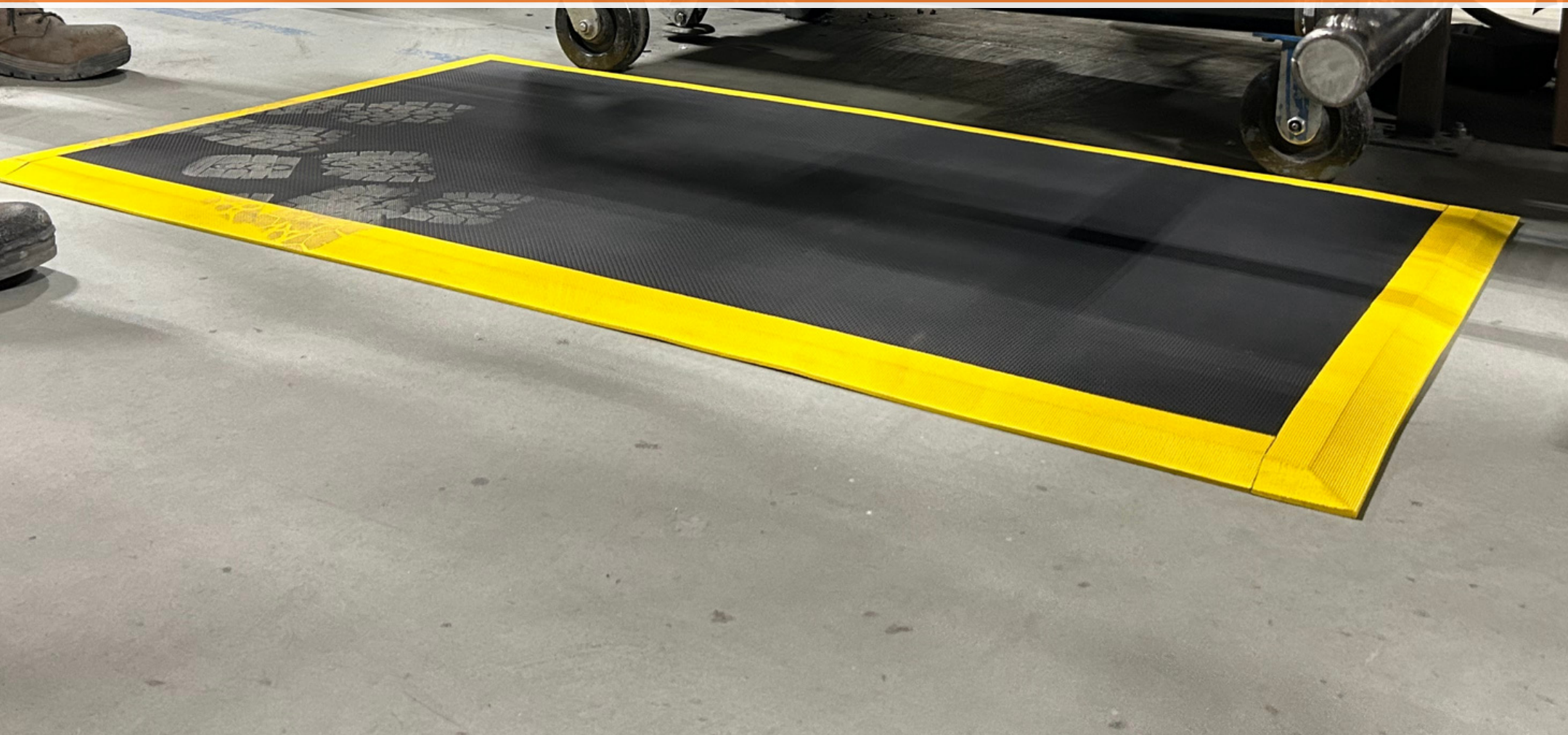
5. Make sure the *free* sample is big enough to stand on







Every sample should be big enough to stand on, *with both feet*. 12" x 12" is the minimum. Depending on the size of your matting project, you may need something bigger or even a custom shape. If the providers you're considering are expecting you to make critical buying decisions with 1" x 1" squares smaller than your hand (highly common), it's time to look elsewhere.

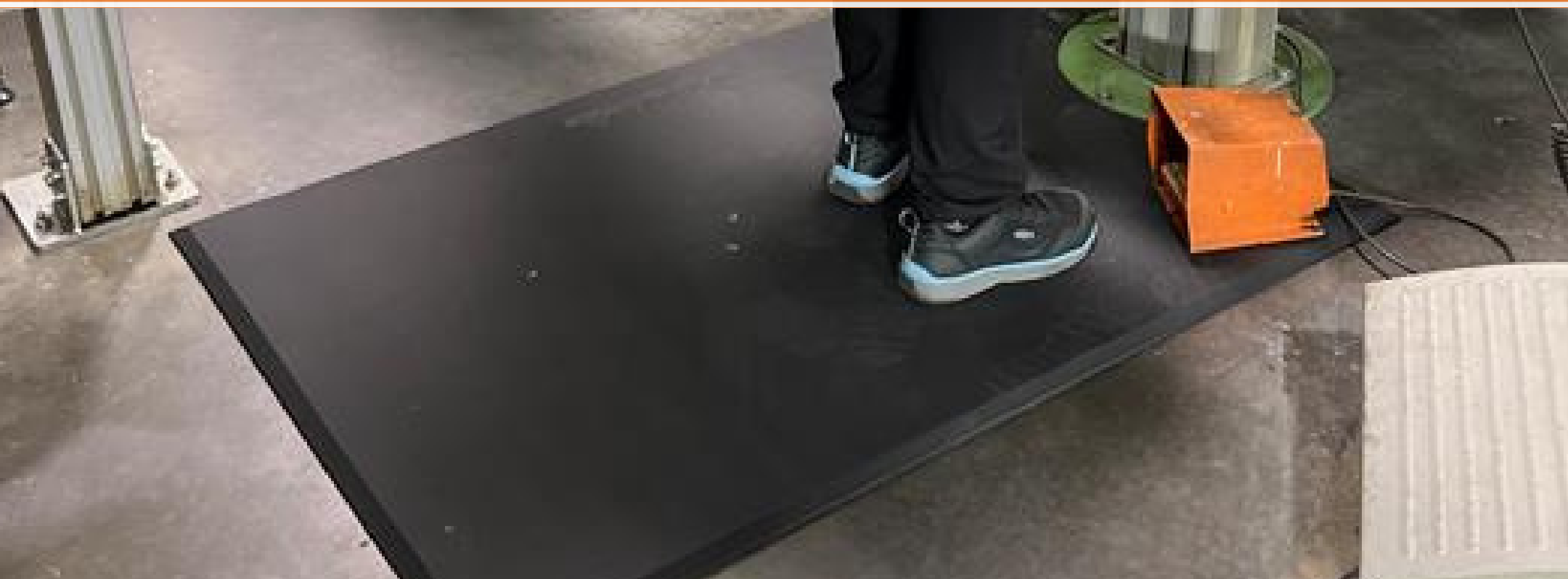






## Summary: 5 Key Steps When Sampling Mats

1. Sample the mats in production
2. Trial the mats for 100-200 hours minimum
3. Never invest without employee feedback
4. Consider comfort surveys
5. Samples should be big enough to stand on





Custom anti-fatigue mats don't  
have to be complicated.

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