

# How the VA Rates Flat Feet (Pes Planus)

Regulatory Source: 38 CFR § 4.71a – Diagnostic Code 5276

VA Source: <https://ecfr.gov>

## Summary:

Flat feet are rated by the severity of pain, arch deformity, pronation, and how well symptoms respond to shoe inserts. Bilateral flatfoot may qualify for higher ratings if it severely affects function.

## VA Rating Table:

Rating	Explanation
0%	Mild symptoms controlled with arch supports or shoe inserts. No functional loss.
10%	Moderate flatfoot in one or both feet. Pain on manipulation and use. Arch loss, but responds to orthopedic support.
30%	Severe flatfoot with marked arch deformity, swelling, and pain that does not improve with orthopedic support. Applies to one foot.
50%	Pronounced bilateral flatfoot. Includes extreme pain, marked pronation, inward bowing of Achilles tendon, and no relief with shoe support.

## Required Evidence:

- Diagnosis of pes planus (flat feet)
- Foot exam showing arch collapse, pain, pronation, or swelling
- X-rays or podiatry records confirming deformity
- Proof of treatment history with shoe inserts or orthotics
- Statements about standing, walking, and work limitations

## Pro Tip:

VA will look at whether your symptoms improve with orthotics. If your pain persists despite shoe inserts, mention it clearly. Pain on manipulation is a key term in higher ratings.