

CARE OF YOUR ROPE

Uncoiling New Rope

It is important to uncoil rope in such a manner as to prevent kinking. Try to prevent unnecessary strand distortion as this may result in weakness when under tension.

Handling and Care

Reverse rope ends regularly as this results in more even rope wear and a longer life span. Utilising a rope bag will prolong the life of your rope. Protection at points where excessive abrasion may occur is advisable. Avoid stepping on your rope as this grinds particles of dirt into the core resulting in unnecessary abrasion. Occasionally wash rope in cold or lukewarm water.

Abrasion

As a general rule, polyester and polyamide ropes have very good abrasion resistance. However, local abrasion caused by passage of the rope over sharp edges and rough surfaces while under tension may result in serious loss of strength. It is important to ensure that all chocks, bits, winches and similar devices are kept in good condition and free from burrs and rust. Please ensure that pulleys are of the proper size and are free to rotate in order to prevent excessive wear. Clamps and related devices will damage and weaken the rope and should be used with extreme caution. Use of this type of equipment is obviously necessary, but we strongly recommend regular inspection of ropes passing through this equipment.

Heat

Please note that relevant break strengths apply to ropes tested at average room temperature. Extreme heat due to friction may cause rope to partially melt and fuse. Never dry a rope in front of a fire or store near a stove or other heat source. Proper care in use and storage will help to prevent heat damage.

Sunlight

Unnecessary exposure to strong sunlight should be avoided as it can result in the weakening of rope fibres. The surface material of the rope scraped off in powder form indicates severe UV degradation. All rope should be stored clean, dry and away from direct sunlight.

Chemicals

The chemical resistance of polyester and polyamide ropes is in general very good, and the ropes will withstand limited exposure to common chemicals. However, the variety of possible chemical contaminants is very wide. It is advisable to avoid exposure to strong acids, alkalis and organic solvents where possible. Local weakening or softening of the rope so that the surface fibres may be rubbed off in powder form may indicate chemical attack. If the chemical contamination is suspected, wash the rope out in cold water. If uncertainty exists regarding the nature of the contaminant and its remedy, seek professional advice.

Inspection

Ropes are exposed to wear and mechanical damage, and can be weakened to some extent by various agents such as chemicals, heat and light. Regular inspection is essential to ensure that a rope is still serviceable. There is no well-defined boundary between ropes that are safe and those that are not as this depends on the stresses placed on the rope in an emergency. Inspect line before use.

If, after inspection, there exists any doubt whatsoever regarding the safety of a rope, replace it immediately.

LIFESPAN OF ROPE

This will vary greatly depending on the extent of the usage, how it is used, exposure to chemicals & the conditions under which it is stored. As a general rule the following can be used as a guideline:

1. No usage & storage in a cool, clean environment - up to 10 years
2. Occasional use (once per month average) with minimal mechanical strain (eg. body weight) & short duration use - up to 5 years
3. Regular use (eg. several times per month) with minimal mechanical strain & duration of application of 3 hours on average - up to 3 years
4. Repeated use (more than once per week) with minimal mechanical strain & duration of application of 6 hours on average - up to 1 year
5. Constant daily usage with minimal mechanical strain & duration of application of 6 hours on average - less than 1 year

It is however critical that the user conducts regular inspections on the rope to check condition, etc. If there is any doubt the rope should be replaced.