

Toolbox talk - Synthetic Round Sling Safety

Synthetic round slings are unaffected by unusually hot air temperatures and they are highly resistant to mildew. However, they are susceptible to damage from cuts, burns, snags, etc. Be sure to inspect each sling inch by inch before using it.

- Find the permanently attached identification. Make sure it includes the manufacturer's name or trademark, code or stock number, rated capacities based on the three basic types of hitches, the angles on which the capacities are based, the type of core material that makes up the sling and the type of cover material, if it is different than the core material. If the identification is missing, the sling is defective.
- Watch for cuts, tears, snags, burns or any other type of fiber damage that expose the core yarns. Observe carefully for acid and caustic burns, which will significantly weaken synthetic round slings.
- Watch for abraded areas, especially where the sling rubs against the load, a fitting or rigging hardware. If the sling has been knotted, take it out of service immediately. Knots can permanently damage synthetic round slings.
- Watch for discolorations. Observe these areas carefully looking for brittle or hardened fibers, which indicate chemicals or excessive heat exposure.
- Check carefully for bends, cracks, gouges, corrosion, rust and other damage to all permanently attached fittings.
- If any part of the sling is defective, take it out of service immediately.