

# Toolbox talk- Synthetic Web Sling Safety

Synthetic web slings are strong and have relatively long service lives when cared for properly. However, they are susceptible to damage from burns, cuts, broken stitching, etc. Be sure to inspect them thoroughly before using them.

- Start by looking for 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.
- Inspect the entire sling inch by inch. Look for melting and/or charring, which would indicate exposure to excessive heat or flames. Look also for cuts, tears, snags, or any other type of fiber damage. Watch for discolorations. Observe these areas carefully looking for brittle or hardened fibers, which indicate contact with chemicals or excessive heat.
- Carefully observe the stitching throughout the sling. Watch for broken and worn stitches. Watch for abraded areas too, 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 web slings.
- 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.