

Toolbox talk - Protecting Slings

Unprotected slings are often susceptible to cuts and tears during lifting operations. This is especially true for synthetic web slings. Unprotected slings can fail if they are cut or torn from the combination of the tension on the sling and a sharp edge or object up against it. Slings can and should be protected from cuts and tears during lifting operations or they may fail creating a significant safety hazard. Here are some safety considerations for lifting operations.

- The edges of the load being lifted do not necessarily have to be razor sharp to cut a sling that is not properly protected.
- Wide synthetic web slings are particularly susceptible to tearing where they come into contact with the corners of a load.
- Place padded material between the sling and any sharp edges that could cut the sling when the tension increases.
- Make sure that the material you use is strong enough to withstand the increased force of the edges when the load is lifted.
- Consider using commercial softeners for padding.
- Commercial corner protectors are also available. These protectors are shaped and designed to force the sling to round out at the points of contact.
- Take the time and effort to properly protect your slings. Doing so will help prevent falling loads.