

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

SYNTHETIC WEB SLINGS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Slings are marked with the manufacturer's code number and rated capacity. Reference charts showing sling and hitch rated capacities are available from manufacturers. Synthetic web slings are easily cut and have poor abrasion resistance when compared to chain and wire rope slings. Nylon slings are damaged by acids, but resist caustics. Polyester slings are damaged by caustics, but resist acids. Both are damaged by sunlight, moisture and temperatures above 90 degrees Celsius (194 degrees Fahrenheit).

Before using any sling, inspect it to ensure that the sling is in good condition and meets the job requirements. Remove from service slings which are/have:

- Increased stiffness or sling material.
- Acid or caustic burns.
- Melted, burned or weld spattered.
- Holes, tears, cuts or snags.
- Broken or worn stitching.
- Excessive abrasive wear.
- Knots in any part of the sling.
- Crushed webbing or embedded particles.
- Bleached sling color.

DO:

- Refer to the manufacturer's reference chart.
- Check sling each time it is used.
- Determine the weight of the load.
- Prevent loading in excess of the rated capacity by considering sling angle.
- Protect the webbing from sharp corners, protrusion or abrasive surfaces.
- Ensure that the sling choking action is on the webbing, not the hardware.
- Have slings repaired only by a sling manufacturer.

DON'T:

- Drag slings across floors or other abrasive surfaces.
- Drop sling with metal fittings.
- Set loads down on top of slings.
- Pull slings from under loads when the load is resting on the sling.
- Weld anything hung from a sling.
- Lengthen or shorten slings by tying knots.
- Place stitch patterns (laps) on hooks, around sharp corners or at choker bearing points.