



CARE AND HANDLING FOR LONG ROPE LIFE

REMOVE ROPE FROM COILS AND REELS PROPERLY

Regular right hand laid rope should be uncoiled in a counterclockwise direction. To make sure it is uncoiled properly, lay the coil on the floor with the inside end at the bottom, then reach down through the center and pull the inside end up through the coil.

Rope should be removed from a reel by pulling it off the top while the reel is free to rotate. Rope should not be taken from a reel lying on its end because it is more likely to knot.

STORE ROPE PROPERLY

Rope is best stored in a dry, unheated place where air circulates freely off the floor, preferably on a wooden peg; and away from direct sunlight and other contact with the elements.

DRY ROPE PROPERLY

Whenever natural fiber ropes become wet, they should always be thoroughly dried before they are stored or they will rot in a very short time.

KEEP ROPE CLEAN

Dirt on the surface of rope can become imbedded inside and act as an abrasive on fibers. When rope gets dirty, wash it thoroughly with clean water. Remember to dry natural fiber rope before storing.

KEEP ROPE AWAY FROM CHEMICALS

Even though synthetic rope is resistant to damage from oils, gasoline, paint and most chemicals, exposure to any of these may cause some damage. Avoid contact with such things as storage battery solutions, washing compounds or solutions and animal wastes. Strong acids, alkalis and solvents can damage any rope. Natural fiber rope is extremely vulnerable to all chemicals and solvents.

AVOID RUST

All ropes, regardless of fiber content should be kept away from rusting iron and steel. Rust can cause rapid loss of strength, sometimes in as short a time as one to two weeks. If ropes become rust stained, inspect the extent of the stain. If it is halfway through the rope, then rope strength may be reduced by as much as 50%.

SLACK OFF GUYS IN WET WEATHER

When ropes are used as guy lines or other supports exposed to weather, they should be slacked off in wet weather or damage to the rope, as well as what it is supporting, may result.

CHOOSE ROPE TO MATCH GEAR OR GEAR TO MATCH ROPE

Sheaves, pulleys, thimbles, etc. that do not match the size of rope being used can cause dangerous friction, abrasion, overload, etc. Check with Bison when in doubt.

REVERSE ENDS OF THE ROPE PERIODICALLY

Especially in tackles and winches, reverse the rope end-for-end periodically so that all sections will be worn equally. Also, using a line in one direction over a winch many times can also damage the rope by twisting it too tight or untwisting it so that hockles occur. Kinks pulled through a restricted space such as a tackle block, can seriously damage rope fibers. The initial use should be in a clockwise direction, then reverse the rope periodically.

SPLICE ROPE CORRECTLY

When a small section of a rope has been worn or damaged, cut the section out and splice it together. Splice in extra tucks for synthetic fiber ropes.

AVOID UNNECESSARY WEAR AND ABRASION

Outer fibers as well as inner fibers contribute to a rope's strength. When outer fibers are worn by chafing or dragging over splintered, buried, rough or gritty surfaces, the rope is worn and weakened. Where rope must rub over cleats, winch-heads, etc., make sure they are smooth and use chafing gear if necessary.

AVOID OVERHEATING

When using synthetic (especially polypropylene) rope on a capstan or winch, be careful to avoid excessive friction which heats, melts and fuses the outer fibers of the rope. Avoid repeated surging or hard rendering around poles or over cross arms. Polyester rope resists over-heating best because its melting point is highest.

AVOID SHARP ANGLES AND BENDS

Sharp angles greatly affect the strength of a rope. Any sharp angle or bend is a weak spot. Use chafing gear or padding where possible. Knots are also weak spots. They can reduce strength by as much as 50%. Wherever possible use splices instead.