

# SLING INSPECTIONS

Lifting and rigging are vital to helping move and place materials on a worksite and are a common workplace task.

Slings are used as part of the equipment to lift and move items. At times, they can be put under great stress and tension which can lead to damage.

This crew talk identifies common sling failures and covers best practices when inspecting slings to ensure a safe working experience.

- **COMMON SLING FAILURES**
- **SLING INSPECTION BEST PRACTICES**



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## COMMON SLING FAILURES

- Slings can snap apart when overloaded.
- Slings can stretch and fray over time.
- Slings exposed to cutting and grinding, or welding splatter, can singe and burn and become compromised.
- Slings exposed to chemicals can deteriorate.
- Slings that are continually wet or left in direct sunlight for extended periods can rot and disintegrate.

## SLING INSPECTION BEST PRACTICES

- Slings should be inspected before use. Inspection should occur throughout the workday if the sling is being used repeatedly.
- Slings should be inspected for burn marks and unravelled threads.
- When inspecting slings, if red nylon fibres are visible, the sling should be removed from service.
- Discoloured and stiff slings should be removed from service as these are indications of chemical exposure.
- Rigid slings that are unable to freely move show signs of excessive UV exposure.
- Remove slings with frayed or rotted threads from service.
- Slings missing tags indicating load capacity are no longer compliant and should not be used in the workplace.
- Slings should be inspected monthly and annually as part of a comprehensive safety inspection process.

Inspecting slings is a best practice that allows workers to identify possible issues with the equipment prior to use. If issues are identified, it is vital to stop work and get a functional sling for the task at hand. *A simple inspection may make all the difference in preventing property loss or injury.*

### **Discussion points:**

1. How often should employees inspect slings?
2. Discuss potential ways in which slings can become damaged and would require removal from service.
3. What are common ways different types of slings can be damaged?



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