

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Material Handling and Storage – Inspecting Synthetic Web Slings

[Reference: 1910.184 / 1926.251]

Synthetic web slings are used in many different industries for lifting, hoisting, and moving heavy loads. So, it is crucial that synthetic web slings be inspected regularly to ensure that they remain in good condition and safe to use.

Here is a list of 10 things you should look for when inspecting a synthetic web sling:

1. Check for any cuts, abrasions, nicks or fraying of the webbing material. This can weaken the sling and cause it to fail under load.
2. Inspect the stitching to make sure it is intact and not damaged. Loose or broken stitches, as well as stitching showing signs of dry rot, can cause the sling to fail.
3. Check lifting rings or other load-bearing end fittings, where applicable, to ensure they are not cracked, deformed, worn, or damaged in any way.
4. Inspect the eye loops at the ends of the sling to ensure they are not stretched, twisted, or damaged.
5. Check the sling for any knots or makeshift fasteners that could compromise its strength.
6. Inspect the sling for any signs of heat damage, such as melting or charring of the webbing material.
7. Inspect the sling for any signs of ultraviolet (UV) damage, such as fading or brittleness of the material.
8. Look for any discoloration or stains on the sling. This could indicate exposure to chemicals or other substances that may have weakened the material.
9. Check the sling for any signs of moisture or mildew, which can weaken the sling material and stitching, causing them to rot.
10. Inspect the label on the sling for any signs of wear or damage, which could inhibit the ability to read the manufacturer's information and instructions. Labels must be legible.

If you detect any problems with a synthetic sling, take it out of service immediately. Damaged slings must be tagged out with a "Danger Do Not Use" tag and turned in to your supervisor.

Does anyone have anything to add to today's discussion on potential signs of danger to look for before using a synthetic web sling? Please sign the training certification form to ensure you get credit for attending today's toolbox training session.