

Rope Facts You Need to Know!



What to know about 3/8" rope:

Type	Working Load	Breaking Load	Stretch	Handling	Price	Enemy/Other
Cotton	150	750	Medium	Excellent	1	Moisture, Chemicals
Sisal	225	1,125	Low	Fair	1	Same "
Hemp	270	1,350	Low	Good	2	Same "
Manila	270	1,350	Low	Good	3	Same "
Polypropylene	400	2,350	Medium	Fair	2	UV. Stiff. "Standard rope"
Nylon	410	3,725	High	Excellent	5	Acids
Polyethylene	420	2,700	Low	Fair	3	UV. Slippery

Sisal comes from Mexican cactus, and it has barbs that poke your fingers.

Hemp is hard to find now because it is made from marijuana plant stems. There is not enough active chemical to make hemp rope smoking worthwhile, or so they say.

Organic ropes can be whipped to prevent unraveling. See "Whipping a Rope."

Old organic ropes get fuzzy, soft, and gray. Retire the rope, but you can use it for other things.

Nylon, Polypropylene, and Polyethylene ropes unwind easily, but their ends can be melted to prevent fraying. Be careful of the molten drips - they'll burn you bad!

Keep Polyethylene and Polypropylene ropes out of the sun. Ultraviolet rays kill them.

Pulleys should be at least 8X the diameter of the rope.