



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Synthetic Sling Padding and Softeners

Synthetic slings should be used when wire rope slings are not suitable for a unique hoisting condition; such as protecting the load from rigging damage, excessive weight of conventional rigging, head room issues, or safety concerns. The qualified rigger is responsible for sling selection.

Proper use and selection of padding and softeners is crucial. Always use manufactured or job-built softeners, or equivalent, for synthetic sling protection, unless the edge of the load has a sufficient radius not to cause sling damage, such as a pipe, shaft, etc.

- **Padding:** Padding is a manufactured or job-built piece of reinforced rubber, leather, nylon, wood, fire hose, or similar device to cushion sharp edges or abrasive areas of the load to prevent sling damage.
- **Softeners:** Softeners are manufactured, or job-built devices used to increase the bending diameter or decrease the angle (soften the corner of the load so that the sling capacity is not lost at the bend).

Discuss: Do we have any planned lifts that will need special rigging and protection?

