# Load Securement – Web Belts Meeting Kit




## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Load securement web belts are designed to secure loads during transportation by providing a reliable and durable restraint system. These belts are made of high-strength polyester or nylon webbing and come in a variety of widths, lengths, and working load limits to meet the specific needs of different cargo types and transportation methods.

## WHAT'S THE DANGER

**LOAD SECUREMENT HAZARDS**

Load securement web belts can be effective at securing cargo during transportation, they also pose certain hazards if not used properly. Some of these hazards include:

**Slippage or detachment:** If the straps are not properly secured or tightened, they can slip or detach during transit, causing the cargo to shift or fall off the vehicle.

**Overloading:** Using straps with a working load limit that is insufficient for the weight of the cargo can cause the straps to fail, resulting in cargo shifting or falling off the vehicle.

**Abrasion and damage:** If the straps rub against sharp edges or rough surfaces, they can become abraded or damaged, which can weaken the straps and reduce their strength and effectiveness.

**Improper storage:** Storing straps in damp or wet conditions can weaken the webbing material and reduce the straps' overall strength and durability.

**Improper use:** Using straps for purposes other than securing cargo, such as lifting or towing, can cause the straps to fail and result in injury or damage.

**Overloaded cargo:** If you notice a vehicle carrying a load that appears to be too heavy or too large for the straps being used, keep a safe distance and be prepared for sudden stops or swerves.

**Loose or shifting cargo:** If you notice cargo that appears to be shifting or bouncing, it could indicate that the straps are not properly secured, or that the straps are worn or damaged.

**Damaged or worn-out straps:** If you see straps that are visibly damaged, frayed, or have cuts or tears, this could indicate that the straps are not strong enough to hold the weight of the cargo.

**Inadequate anchoring:** If you notice straps that are not properly anchored to the vehicle or the cargo, this could indicate that the load is not properly secured.

# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

### BEST PRACTICES AND PROPER PRECAUTIONS WITH WEB BELTS

- **Choose the right strap:** Use load securement web belts that are appropriate for the weight and type of cargo being transported.
- **Inspect the straps:** Before each use, inspect the straps for signs of damage, such as cuts, tears, fraying, or punctures. Replace any damaged or worn-out straps immediately.
- **Anchor the straps properly:** Use appropriate anchor points, such as D-rings or tie-down points and avoid anchoring to weak or damaged points.
- **Protect the straps:** Protect the straps from sharp edges, corners, or rough surfaces by using padding or corner protectors.
- **Store the straps properly:** Store the straps in a cool, dry, and protected area when not in use. Avoid exposing them to sunlight, chemicals, or moisture, as this can weaken the straps and reduce their strength.

### OTHER TIPS TO ENSURE THE SAFE AND SECURE USE OF LOAD SECUREMENT WEB BELTS

- **Choose the right strap for the job:** Make sure you select a strap that is appropriate for the weight and type of cargo you are transporting. Check the working load limit of the strap to ensure it can handle the weight of the cargo.
- **Inspect the straps before use:** Check the straps for any signs of damage, such as fraying, cuts, or tears. If you notice any damage, replace the strap before using it.
- **Use enough straps:** Use enough straps to securely hold the cargo in place. Generally, it is recommended to use at least one strap for every 10 feet of cargo.
- **Properly anchor the straps:** The straps should be secured to the strongest part of the vehicle, such as the frame, and should be anchored to the cargo in a way that prevents it from shifting during transport.
- **Avoid twisting or knotting the straps:** Avoid twisting or knotting the straps, as this can weaken them and reduce their strength.
- **Check the tension:** Once the straps are in place, check the tension to ensure that the cargo is secure.
- **Regularly check the straps during transport:** Make sure to check the straps periodically during transport to ensure they are still secure and have not come loose.
- **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):** Wear sturdy shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles, and gloves to protect your hands while handling the straps.

**Tips To Keep Cargo Securement Tie-Downs in Proper Working Conditions**

**Cover up the corners:** Equipment like cargo corner and edge protectors are designed to snuggly fit along the corners of the cargo, acting as a protecting buffer for the straps, cables and chains to lie on instead of the sharp edge.

**Clean, dry and store:** Straps are going to get dirty. But for them to work properly, they can’t stay that way.

**Keep equipment dry:** Keeping chains, webbing and hardware dry is important to maintaining their integrity. Exposing hardware to moisture for too long can eventually degrade the quality of the material.

**Get the tough stuff:** When hauling heavy or rough loads like concrete, bricks, wood or other construction materials, use tie-downs designed to withstand the additional strain.

**Don’t let them drag:** Keep your straps off the ground. You could use duct tape, rubber bands, bungee cords, or specially designed storage devices such as the Strap Pak to secure excessive webbing and prevent damage.

**Know when to replace:** Even the best equipment won’t last forever. At the first sign of damage, take the tie-down out of service.

## FINAL WORD

Use load securement web belts that are appropriate for the weight and type of cargo being transported, to inspect the straps for signs of damage before each use, and to replace any damaged straps immediately.