

Ropes & Cordage

Practical skills

Which rope for which job, and how to make it last.

Common materials and their behaviour.

Material	Stretch	Best for
Nylon	High	Shock loads, climbing, anchoring
Polyester	Low	Rigging, halyards, guy lines
Polypropylene	Low	Floats; cheap; UV-degrades
Dyneema	Very low	Very strong, light, expensive
Natural fibre	Moderate	Decorative; rots

Every knot weakens a rope by 20–50%. Whip or heat-seal cut ends, and keep rope out of prolonged sunlight.