

TOOL BOX TALKS

Cleaning and Storing PFAS

Manufacturers of personal fall protection equipment recommend cleaning to extend service life and maintain performance of the equipment. Various cleaning processes are effective in cleaning web products, which include washing by hand or in commercial and residential washers. Washing removes contaminants like perspiration, dirt and abrasives and oils. Wash fall protection equipment on a regular basis, inspecting webbing, stitches and metal components before and after the laundering process.

WORKSAFE TIPS

STORAGE

- Store PFAS in a clean, dry area
- Work Truck: Store PFAS in a duffle bag
- Work Truck: Protect from sharp edges / pinch points
- Store where free of hot surfaces—high heat
- Never suspend or lift tools with PFAS equipment
- Facility: Hang from the D-ring or connectors
- Minimize contact with oils, solvents and grease
- Avoid painting or marking PFAS equipment as the chemicals may break down webbing

CLEANING CARABINEERS

- Carabineers must be inspected annually by a competent person
- Carabineers must be inspected by the user each day to look for:
 - Gate operation
 - Lock ring should operate smoothly
 - Cracks or sharp edges
 - Deformity or dents
- Markings should be fully legible
- Clean with a mild detergent or mild sterile disinfectant
- Store dry and away from tools or corrosives that can damage carabineers
- Clean and lubricate with increased frequency if used in harsh, wet environments

CLEANING WEB COMPONENTS

- Avoid cleaning with high-temperature water
- Avoid cleaning with high-pressure water
- Avoid cleaning with high-pressure washers
- Do not use wire brushes or abrasive tools to clean web material

HAND WASH

- Soak in bucket of warm water and mild detergent
- Hand scrub
- Rinse in clear water
- Hang by D-Ring and air dry
- Don't dry in high-temperature or expose to heat

MACHINE WASH

- Use a top or side load washer
- Commercial or consumer washers are recommended
- Place web material in a mesh bag to prevent entanglement
- Do not use water over 160 Fahrenheit
- Use water between 140 and 160 Fahrenheit
- Use a full wash and rinse cycle
- Hang by D-Ring and air dry
- Don't dry in high-temperature or expose to heat

CLEANING AGENTS

- Many are available for web products
- Avoid harsh chemical cleaners
- Avoid using solutions that break down web material
- Read manufacturers handbook before purchasing and using a commercial web material cleaner