

Inspection of Slings and Belts

Sling/Belt Washing Instructions

A sling in good condition promotes safe lifting and reduces the risk of injury to the patient and the caregiver.

Sling/Belt Inspection Checklist

What to look for when determining if a sling should be replaced:



Fraying

Any fraying of the material on the sling or belt is a clear indication that the fabric is in a weakened condition. Slings and belts with fraying should be removed from service immediately.



Rips or Burns in Material

Tears in fabric can spread and cause excess strain to be put on other areas of the sling. Slings and belts with rips, tears or burns should be removed from service immediately.



Use of Bleach

The use of bleach for cleaning any Medicare manufactured sling is not encouraged. Using bleach will reduce the "life" of the sling. Bleach is known to speed up fabric deterioration while causing fading and discoloration. If your facility is using bleach to launder slings it is imperative to inspect for premature wearing on a regular basis. This will ensure a safe transfer for the patient and caregiver.



Loose Stitching

Any loose stitching on the sling, even if it is only supportive stitching, weakens that area and puts more strain on other areas of the sling.

Punch Tag

Look at the date punched on the tag, and if the sling/belt has been in service for more than two years, we recommend replacement. If the numbers are faded or the tag is worn off or shredded, then replace the sling/belt.

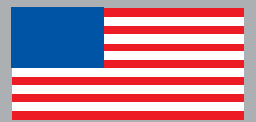
Sling and Belt Washing and Care Instructions

- Spot cleaning for between washing treatments
- Machine wash in soap solution
- Maximum washing temperature = 165° F
- Rinse thoroughly
- Hang or tumble dry
- Maximum drying temperature = 175° F
- Do not overload dryer
- Do not place in direct contact with heat source in dryer
- Do not dry clean

Medicare recommends that reusable slings be laundered between uses on different patients. All of our slings can also be wiped down or spot cleaned between washings, using your standard cleaning product (e.g. AHP).

Medicare's suggested sling cleaning policy is based on our research. We recommend that you use these as a guideline for your facility. In all cases, the cleaning policies and procedures that you have determined for your facility should be followed and should supersede Medicare's suggested policy.

Slings and belts should be checked before every use for wear and tear. The life of a sling or belt will depend on how often it is used and laundered.



MADE IN THE USA



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