

Inspection of Slings and Belts

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

We recommend that slings and belts be in service for no longer than two years from the date of purchase. While two years is a general guideline, slings/belts may need to be removed prior to this time, depending on wear and tear like loose stitching, fraying, discoloration, etc. A sling in good condition promotes safe lifting and reduces the risk of injury to the patient/resident and the caregiver.

Sling/Belt Inspection Checklist

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



Discoloration

Sling straps or fabric may be discolored and lightened due to bleach and laundry detergents which weaken fabric.

A sling with discolored straps or fabric should be removed from service immediately.



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. It may also be an indication that other stitching is weakened or about to unravel. Slings with loose stitching should be removed from service immediately.



Fraying

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



Rips or Burns

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

Warranty Tag

Even if the sling/belt appears to be in good condition, look at the date punched on the warranty tag, and if over two years, we recommend the sling/belt be replaced. If the numbers are faded or the tag is worn off or shredded, then replace the sling/belt.

