

Technical Bulletin 27: Twin-Path® High Performance Roundslings vs. Rope Slings

There is often a question about what is the better product for lifting: A roundsling such as a Twin-Path® High Performance Roundsling, or a rope sling? Both will get the job done, so what difference does it make which one is used? Ropes are designed for applications like hoisting and mooring and have several disadvantages when used in lifting applications. If they are twisted, they can rapidly lose strength, and that twist can be difficult to see during a lift. A Twin-Path sling is unaffected by twisting.

Rope slings require splices in order to be used, so they have minimum lengths that get longer as the capacity goes up. Splices can also get in the way during rigging in different hitches. Twin-Path slings can be made as short as 3 feet in usable length, and are easy to rig in vertical, basket or choker hitches.

Twin-Path®	Rope Slings
One size K-Spec® core yarn to make any size sling	30+ separate rope sizes to match Slingmax® catalog
Short lead time – any size within days	Long lead time if rope size isn't inventoried
As short as 1 meter	Can only be as short as splices allow
Covermax® protects from abrasion, dirt, and UV	Mostly unjacketed – jacketing complicates splicing
Two independent paths give redundancy in the case of a cut in one path	Single rope can experience catastrophic damage if cut
Small D/d – can use without additional hardware more often	3:1 D/d – need thimbles or wide body shackle
Check-Fast® gives objective retirement criteria	Visual subjective inspection
Repairable in over 45 locations	Rarely repairable – only jacketed rope usually
No strength loss with twisting up to 1 turn / ft & twisting is easy to see	10% strength loss at 1 turn / ft & twisting can be difficult to see, especially on used ropes
Easy to store – can be rolled into small coils	Can be unwieldy to store, especially on large sizes
Negligible internal abrasion	Strength loss due to internal abrasion during normal use
No splices – strength is derived from number of wraps of K-Spec®	Strength depends on splices, can be complicated or subject to backing out / slipping