

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Chain Binders

Chain binders, also known as load binders, are the devices used to adjust your chain's tension. This tightening is what ensures your cargo is held securely in place. They have a tension hook on each end that attaches to your chain and a handle to add tension.

When it comes to choosing the right chain binder for you, you will need to look at both size and style.

Size is easy – you'll need a binder that works with the chain size you are using.

Choosing the right style is less straightforward – there are two options, ratchet and lever, and the choice usually depends on a multitude of factors. However, a ratchet binder is generally regarded as the safer option.

Ratchet Binders

A ratchet binder uses a ratcheting mechanism to add tension to your chain. This device lessens the amount of force needed, reducing the risk of the bar snapping back at you and making it easier to tighten.

The additional parts - including a cam and prawl apparatus - provide a smooth ratcheting action but result in the load binder taking longer to install and release. Many find that an acceptable trade for increased safety.

When you are using a ratchet binder, the lever and screw will work together to increase the force applied to the tie-down assembly. This will provide the least amount of work to bind the chain tightly to secure the load. Also, its handle takes much less pulling force than you would need with a lever binder.



Lever Binders

Lever load binders, on the other hand, require additional strength because they store energy in the handle. This often leads to people using cheater bars, but these bars are dangerous and not recommended. The lever binder is viewed as the least safe option because of the lever's built-up tension when you release it.

If you are going to use a lever binder, we have a few tips that can help keep you safe.

- Only one person should operate a lever binder
- Make sure you have secure footing on the ground before starting to tighten
- Always tighten by hand and wear gloves for a better grip

At the end of the day, the chain binders are only as safe as how you are using them. If you don't use it correctly, it will become a danger to you

