

Here are some tips for using Wire Rope Clips

When buying a wire rope clip (also called a U-bolt clamp, U-bolt clip, wire rope clamp or wire cable clip), here are some tips to remember:



1. Clips are for holding, not moving

If you need to lift an object, use a swage sleeve instead. Wire rope clips are designed for applications where an object is being held in place. The “rule of thumb” is to never use a wire rope assembly with a clip when you are moving an object.

2. Malleable or drop forged? Consider the application.

A malleable clip or clamp is formed by melting metal and pouring it into a mold. A forged clip is much stronger. In the forging process, a solid piece of metal is heated until soft, then formed into shape using pressure. Your decision comes down to cost savings and safety. Choose the less expensive malleable clip for light-duty, non-critical applications such as fencing and guard lines. Choose the drop forged clip for an application where the clip is being stressed – for example, when it is used for sustaining an overhead load. Because it is strong, drop forged steel is also the choice for heavy duty guy wires, support lines and tie downs. Will the clip be subjected to worksite abuse and tough elements? If so, opt for a drop forged clip that is galvanized - with a heavy coating of zinc solution that will provide corrosion resistance.

3. What is the right way to attach the clip to wire rope?

The clip consists of a U-bolt and saddle. The saddle is secured onto the U-bolt with two nuts. It’s used to clamp the loose end of wire after it has been looped around to form an eye. Just remember, “Never saddle a dead horse.” In other words, fit the U-shaped part of the clip over the dead-end piece of the rope. The saddle, which slides onto the U-bolt, should be pressing against the “live” end of the rope. Usually two or three clips are used for an application.

4. Remember these safety tips, too:

- To lessen wear in the eye of the wire loop, use a wire rope thimble.
- Choose the right wire rope: never use clips on plastic-coated wire rope unless the plastic has been stripped off.
- Tighten the nuts of the wire rope clip regularly.

Click to our Online Suppliers Directory and search for “CLIPS: WIRE ROPE” to find some of the best suppliers of wire rope clips in the industry!