Tips for protecting your equipment

Ropes

You too can help prolong the lifetime of your products. To succeed in this challenge, several aspects must be taken into account: product usage (intensity, frequency, conditions etc.), and also the transport, storage, care and maintenance.

Taking care with all of these aspects helps avoid premature wear of the equipment.

Here is a summary of precautions recommended by Petzl for maintaining your equipment.

Basic principles

- In general, take care of your safety gear. Do not leave it lying about anywhere. Do not throw your gear on the ground.
- Read the specific recommendations for each product in the Instructions For Use available on the Petzl Web site.
- See the heading "PPE* Inspection".

* PPE is Personal Protective Equipment, equipment worn or carried by the user. PPE are classified in three categories:
Category 1: minor hazards, light mechanical impacts, solar radiation (e.g. glasses, gloves)
Category 2: serious hazards (e.g. ventilated helmets, crampons)
Category 3: major or deadly hazards (e.g. harnesses, carabiners, ice axes)

Reminder of the lifetime of Petzl equipment.

- The maximum lifetime is up to 10 years from the date of manufacture for plastic and textile products.
- The lifetime is indefinite for metal products.
- Warning: An unusual event may require you to retire a product after only one use. This may involve the type and intensity of use, or the environment in which it is used: aggressive environments, sharp edges, extreme temperatures, chemicals...
- To learn more, see the heading "PPE Inspection".

How can I find out the age of my Petzl PPE?

All of our PPE products are now identified by a serial number. This number may be marked in a number of ways: laser, engraving, label, etc. It allows us to identify our products.

To find out the year of manufacture, refer to this detailed serial number in the following manner:

Example for recent PPE: 09 365 AB 1 234

09 year of manufacture
365 day of manufacture in that year
AB person who inspected the product
1234 individual product number

The oldest harnesses may be marked this way: 99 289 A

99 year of manufacture
289 day of manufacture in that year
A code of the person who inspected the product

Older connectors may be marked this way: 05 06

05 month of manufacture
06 year of manufacture

Transport

• It is preferable to store your equipment in a pack to protect it.

• With a backpack, take care that crampon points or sharp objects don't damage your helmet, ropes, or slings.

• When traveling by truck, train, plane, or boat, the temperatures can be extreme and can degrade the products. For example, never leave your textile equipment or helmets under a window or in the trunk of a car that is exposed to direct sunlight. The temperature can be higher than 80 °C.

• In the trunk of a car, for example, pay attention to your equipment's possible proximity to gas cans, car batteries, or cleaners (risk of leaking). Warning: any contact with chemical products, harsh or corrosive substances (e.g. acids) is prohibited. If you have a doubt, retire your equipment.

Storage

• Store your equipment in a well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight (UV).

• Reserve a specific place for your equipment. Warning: any contact with harsh or corrosive substances (e.g. acids) is prohibited. If you have a doubt, retire your equipment.

• Never store your gear in a damp place where mold can develop (damp closets, bags and waterproof containers with moisture inside). For long-distance travel, beware of moisture in containers during transit, in ports or airports, especially in salty environments.

Repair

Modifications and repair of Petzl products outside of Petzl facilities is prohibited, except for replacing worn parts with replacement parts referenced in Petzl catalogs.
See the list of replacement parts at petzl.com

In case of doubt, contact After-sales service (aftersales@petzl.fr)

Washing

Recommendations for washing are indicated for each product family.

Drying

• Remove your gear from packs after each activity, even if cleaning isn't necessary.

• Let all your gear air-dry away from UV sources (ultraviolet rays).

• Avoid proximity to heat sources such as direct sunlight, wood fires, or a radiator.

Maintenance

In general, when used in amateur sports, Petzl products do not require any special maintenance, outside of cleaning, except for metal products (see paragraphs: belay devices, descenders, carabiners, pulleys, ascenders, ice axes, crampons, ice screws).

Ropes

Usage tips

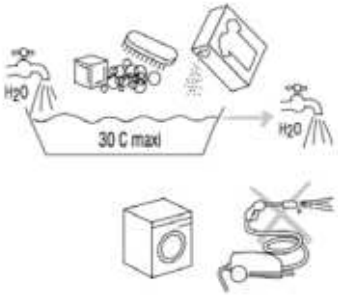
• Do not walk on the ropes

• When tying-in repeatedly,tie into alternate ends of the rope on each pitch to avoid creating twists.

• Avoid descending too fast on a rope as this heats the sheath and accelerates wear (rappelling, or lowering a climber on toprope). During very rapid descents, a rappel device can become hot enough (230 °C) to melt the nylon fibers of the rope.

• Store your ropes in a proper bag that will protect them from dirt.

• Store ropes in bags, uncoiled. This avoids creating twists. Keep rope away from contact with sharp objects (ice screws, ice axes, crampons).



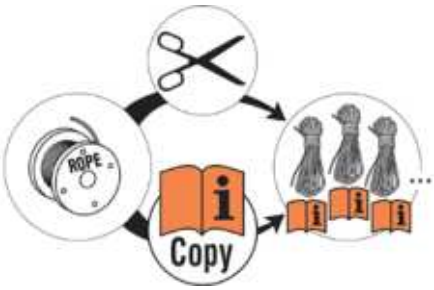
• Keep your ropes clean. A rope's condition can have an impact on the wear of other gear. For example, a muddy rope can inhibit the proper function of an ascender. A wet, sandy rope can cause premature wear of ascenders, descenders, and connectors.

• Mountaineering, especially in glaciated areas, canyoning and caving are practiced in extremely abrasive environments, laden with silt, water, and sand. Remember to rinse your ropes with water after use.

• Cutting rope:
- Use a hot knife to obtain a neat, clean cut.
- When cutting rope (new ropes on reels sold by the meter, or used ropes divided into multiple sections), you should mark each rope end with the appropriate information. At a minimum, write the diameter and new length of the rope.
- Use labels or adhesive tape to record information on standards and protect the label with a heat-shrink sheath (WARNING: do not exceed 80 °C).

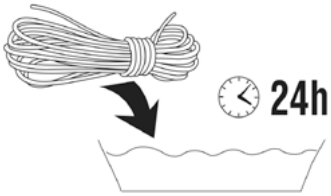
Required information on the label:

- The name of the manufacturer
- The type of rope.
- The CE mark with the number of the certifying body.
- The length.
- The diameter.
- The identification number containing the year of manufacture.
- The product model number.



• To protect your ropes from abrasion, for example on edges, use PROTEC, CATERPILLAR, OR ROLL MODULE protectors.

Particulars of semi-static ropes:



Before the first use, soak a static rope in water for 24 hours.

This creates a better bond between the sheath and the core and helps remove lubricants (particularly slippery) used during manufacture.

Let the rope dry slowly. It will shrink by approximately 5 % (5 m for every 100 m). Take this into account in calculating the required length. A well-used rope can shrink up to an additional 5 %.

Maintenance

• After use in a salty environment (seaside), rinse with fresh water.

• Wash ropes in lukewarm soapy water (ph neutral, 30 °C maximum), then rinse thoroughly with fresh tap water.

• You can wash your rope in a washing machine. Choose the 30 °C delicate synthetic setting, without spin cycle.

• Use only household face and body soap. All other cleaning products, for example solvents, stain removers, degreasers, etc. are too strong and are incompatible with nylon.

• Do not use a high pressure water sprayer.