



Woven Strapping—User-Friendly as Poly, Strong as Steel

By Mike Theriault
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Anyone who has ever worked with steel strapping knows how careful they must be. Most mishaps occur when highly pressured bands are cut. While the drawbacks of steel strapping have been widely acknowledged over the decades, until recently there wasn't a good alternative to reliably secure heavy, shifting loads such as lumber. Woven strapping is an excellent substitute. It can be as strong as steel and as user-friendly as polyester. In other words, it has all the benefits of alternatives without any downside.

Woven strapping is usually composed of polyester, nylon, and/or rayon. It will meet and can even exceed the break strength of steel strapping. It is also gentler than steel strapping--if it snaps, it will not harm workers or anyone else standing nearby.

Woven strapping also offers excellent memory, which gives it superior ability to accommodate shifting loads and the expansion/contraction of extreme temperature variations. It has a greater elongation capability than other strapping and doesn't rust, making it an excellent choice for rail and sea shipments.

Because the fastening system uses a buckle at the joint, woven strapping can have greater system strength than steel strapping. In fact, this strapping offers one of the strongest and most reliable joints of any strapping material. It is tensioned with a manual or pneumatic tensioning tool, which has a relatively low purchase price and is exceptionally sturdy.

Woven strapping comes in a wide variety of thicknesses and widths. The best choice depends on factors such as the weight and stability of the product being shipped, the mode(s) of transportation, and anticipated storage conditions. A summary of advantages to woven strapping includes:

- It effectively eliminates strapping-related worker mishaps.
- It's as strong or stronger than steel.
- It's applied with inexpensive, sturdy, and easily portable tools.
- It does not damage products.
- It's easier to handle (softer and lighter).
- It's cost effective.
- It's self-adjusting.
- It will not rust or rot.
- It's chemical resistant.
- It can be tensioned more than once and may be reusable.
- It can be custom printed.

For a great video showcasing the tensile strength of woven strapping in comparison with steel strapping, visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-y9_MG7tB2E.

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A B2B Industrial Packaging Woven Strapping Success

A major U.S. lumber supplier experienced one too many worker mishaps with steel strapping and contacted their B2B Industrial Packaging rep, Mike Moniz, to discuss an alternative. Mike is the Western Regional Sales Manager. “They wanted to get out of steel bands into something more user-friendly,” Mike explained. “There had been some incidents, which are common when workers don’t follow safety guidelines.”

Our Solution

Mike suggested the client switch to woven strapping for many reasons. “Because woven is relatively new, many companies stayed with steel strapping longer than they needed to,” he said. “It’s mostly because it was a while before woven really proved itself. But by the time this client was ready to make the switch, they were convinced that woven had the same strength as steel.”

Their Success

Since the client started using woven strapping, strapping-related mishaps have been eliminated; workers don’t even need to wear gloves anymore. They also appreciate the fact that woven strapping doesn’t leave rust marks on the loads, as steel did. What the client didn’t expect was that using woven would cut tool repairs down—steel strapping requires an expensive two-piece tool set while woven strapping requires only a single portable, lightweight tool. So while woven strapping and steel strapping are about equal in cost, the application tools tend to be much less expensive. The coils are also much easier for workers to handle; woven is about half the weight of steel (50 lbs. vs. 100 lbs.).

Mike knows that the client has been more than satisfied, not only with the product performance and price, but with B2B Industrial Packaging’s customer service. “Because they’ve recommended us to other companies, I know they’ve been very happy with our products and also our service,” he said. “I make it a point to visit them in person every two weeks. This client’s experience really demonstrates why people should try woven, once they do they will never go back to steel strapping.”

About the Client

Founded in 1987, the client company is a major building materials distributor with 4,500 employees and 88 business units. It services major residential and commercial builders across nine western states. Among their many industry-leading initiatives is support of local green-building programs that promote the use of sustainable materials, responsible energy consumption, and eco-friendly construction practices.

See the complete selection of B2B Industrial Packaging’s woven strapping at:

http://www.b2bind.com/products/categories.php/grpid/A/catid/AD/category/Woven_Strapping.htm.

B2B Industrial Packaging LLC

B2B Industrial Packaging offers the best packaging products, service, and solutions for businesses ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small growing enterprises. Servicing more than 4,000 active clients, they sell a variety of packaging supplies including steel strapping, polyester strapping, stretch wrap, edge board, and fasteners. B2B Industrial serves clients primarily in the Central Great Lakes, California and Texas, and operates a strapping tool repair facility that services the entire U.S. To contact B2B Industrial Packaging, call 1-800-413-2463 or visit www.B2BInd.com.

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