

Everything You Need to Know About Load Binders and Chains



Need to secure heavy cargo safely during transit? The right tools can make all the difference. **Load binders and chains** are critical in applying proper tension to tie-down systems. Without them, even the strongest chain can fail to hold a load in place. For dependable cargo transportation, it is crucial to comprehend how they operate and how to select them.

Difference Between Ratchet and Lever Load Binders

There are two common types of **chain load binders**, each with its use case and tensioning mechanism:

- **Ratchet Load Binders:**
These use a ratcheting mechanism to build tension gradually. They are the

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best choice when the highest level of safety and control is needed, especially in high-torque applications. Operators can tighten in small increments with minimal effort.

- **Lever Load Binders:**

Also known as snap binders, these use a simple lever action to tighten chains. They can be applied more quickly, but if not used properly, they require more force and carry a higher risk of recoil.

Both types are effective when used correctly. The right choice depends on your working environment, strength requirements, and operator experience.

Choosing the Right Chain Size and Grade

Pairing the correct chain with your binder ensures both tension and safety.

- **Chain Size:**

Standard sizes include 5/16", 3/8", 1/2", and 5/8", with working load limits increasing with diameter.

- **Chain Grade:**

- Grade 70: Designed for transport, marked with a gold finish.
- Grade 80/100/120: Suitable for overhead lifting and more demanding applications.

Chains used with **load binders and chains** must be matched carefully to avoid overloading or weakening the system.

Always follow the manufacturer's working load limits when selecting binder and chain.

How to Use and Inspect Load Binders Safely

Before tensioning any cargo:

- Inspect the binder for cracks, bent handles, or worn threads
- Check the chain for stretched links, rust, or deformations.

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- Ensure the binder hooks are adequately latched and centered.

When using **ratchet load binders**, always apply force slowly and avoid over-tensioning. With lever types, use caution during release to prevent kickback.

Operators should always wear gloves and safety glasses when handling tensioned machinery. When handling tensioned equipment, operators should always wear gloves and eye protection.

Storage and Maintenance Best Practices

Extend the lifespan of your chain load binders and chains with proper storage:

- Store in a dry, clean area away from corrosive substances.
- Light lubrication should be applied to pivot points or threads to prevent rust.
- Keep binders and chains off the ground and coil chains loosely to avoid kinks.

Routine inspection before each use prevents failures and helps maintain compliance.

Chain and Binder Selection Impacts Load Security

Your gear is only as good as its weakest link in heavy hauling. Selecting and using the right **load binders and chains** ensures your cargo remains secure from departure to delivery. Using the proper chain is crucial, whether using lever models for fast setup or **ratchet load binders** for controlled tension.

For trusted cargo control equipment, rely on [Murphy Industrial Products, Inc.](https://murphylift.com/)—a dependable source for professional-grade transport solutions.

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