

Storing Ratchet Straps for Quick Deployment, Version 1.2

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I have a tub full of ratchet straps. Twice a year, I secure a rather complex load to the bed of a pickup truck which is then driven up a steep road to the top of a mountain. I certainly cannot show up to do the rigging with a ball of tangled straps.



I do show up with each strap neatly wound up and secured with 3M Painter's Tape. The tape easily comes off so accessing each ratchet strap does not distract me from the job at hand.

Actually, the tape comes off a bit too easily. It doesn't take much of a bump to tear the tape or have it unwrap. Additionally, I dislike wasting all of that tape.

Rubber bands don't last 6 months in the Arizona heat so forget that option.



On what must sound like an unrelated tangent, I was putting on my socks this morning and my heel tore through². Rather than tossing the socks into the trash, I started to think where I could use them.

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² Hey Marv, do you get the pun...



Using my paper cutter, I sliced the sock into 1-inch long tubes.



My ratchet straps are now secure and the bands are reusable. The fabric is tight enough to prevent the straps from unraveling yet comes off with a slight tug.

Did I mention that I don't throw much away?



John Herrmann suggested that I can use the end of the sock to better enclose the strap. As you can see, it works nicely.



I will live with both methods to see which one works best for me. As a back-up, I will keep a roll of blue tape in the box too.



“Saltfever” from homemadetools.net posed the problem of what to do with the excess strap. I’m not sure it will hold but came up with this technique:



Grab about 1 foot of excess strap and form a flat loop. Repeat until it is all gathered up.

Then fold the stack in half and, if not fat enough, in half again.



Slip the band of cut up sock around the strap and the handle of the ratchet.

And if I was *really* thinking, I would slide the strap through the sock before hooking it down.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to John Herrmann for his idea of how to better enclose the ratchet strap.
Thanks to "saltfever" for posing a very good question.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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