

Common Mistakes When Rigging A Heavy Load

Rigging and lifting heavy loads carries the risk of costly damage and injury. Whether it's a few hundred pounds or a complex lift weighing thousands of pounds, mistakes can have fatal consequences.

- **Not having the proper training to rig and handle a heavy load.** If you don't know how to do it, you multiply your chances of something going wrong - it's as simple as that.
- **Sling & Hardware Selection**
Every load has different rigging and safety requirements. Different kinds of hardware have different capacities for weight and size. You must also know which kinds of slings and hardware work together with the proper end attachments.
- **Not following the proper inspection & removal criteria**
For any rigging job, you must visually inspect every step of the process and keep properly dated records of the conditions.
- **Capacity tag identification mistakes**
These include not knowing how to read them and not reporting loss.
- **Not handling and taking care of your equipment properly**
After using any equipment involved in rigging, you must store it properly, but first check for damage and take out of service if necessary.
- **Making mistakes with load weights**
Before anyone can even set up the rigging for your job, the load weight itself must be measured properly.
- **Not using the proper hitch types**
To safely transport any heavy load, the proper hitch must be used for the job. The load and the sling must be protected during the transportation and lifting. To do this, you must know the lifting height, overhead clearance and hook travel.
- **Not using the proper lifting device**
The three crucial elements of the right lifting device are the height (is it high enough for the job), an adequate overhead reach, and a great enough capacity for the load it's lifting.
- **Not operating properly**
Finally, even if you get all of the above correct...the load still must be lifted and transported properly.