



# Tips for protecting your equipment

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## Harnesses



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

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- 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](http://petzl.com)

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

## Harnesses

### Usage tips

- You can personalize your harness by writing (for example) your name, address, blood type, etc.
- Marking is authorized only on the labels and the comfort parts, and not on the safety parts. Refer to the recommendations in the Instructions For Use. A blank space is available on the harness label. You can also use cable ties.
- The chemical components of markers, paints, adhesive tapes, and stickers may be incompatible with nylon. These components can weaken the fibers and change the structure and strength of plastics. However, to mark a harness, you can use a small piece of adhesive tape on the comfort elements only. Make sure the marking does not interfere with proper usage.

When working at height on painting and/or spray coating operations, or in an oily environment, you can protect your harness with disposable coveralls. A hole can be cut in the coveralls with scissors to allow the lanyard to pass through.



## Maintenance

- Regular cleaning preserves the legibility of identification, traceability, and standards markings. Additionally, it is easier to inspect the stitching and condition of the straps on a clean textile product.
- After use in a salty environment (seaside), rinse with fresh water.
- Wash harnesses in lukewarm soapy water (ph neutral, 30 °C maximum), then rinse thoroughly with fresh tap water.
- Use a small brush to remove stubborn spots (oily dirt or mud).
- You can wash your harness in a washing machine. Choose the 30 °C delicate synthetic setting, without spin cycle. Wash the harness inside a thick cloth bag to avoid damaging the machine drum with metal parts of harnesses.
- 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 and can damage the product.
- Do not use a high pressure water sprayer.
- Hang harnesses on a line to dry Do not use laundry detergent.

