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Installation of Wire Rope on Winch Drum (Includes Super Swage)

Basic care of your wire rope winch line begins with the installation. Taking the time to do the installation right will extend the life of your wire rope.

- Once the old wire rope has been removed, use a wire brush to clean the drum of burrs, sharp points or rust. This is also a good time to inspect any sheaves on the truck for burrs, sharp points, rust and free movement. Follow the instructions on the wire rope box when uncoiling the winch line. **ALWAYS** uncoil the winch line by rolling it like a wheel, leaving a trail of wire rope. **NEVER** lay the coil flat and pull the top coil or hook as this may cause permanent kinks to form.
- Secure the wire rope to the winch drum as per the winch manufacturer's instructions, making sure the wire rope goes onto the drum in the direction of the drum rotation. Have a helper operate the winch controls and begin to wind the winch line onto the drum. For the first 5 wraps on the drum guide the wire rope with a smooth object such as a length of pipe or wood so that the wrap going on butts up to the previous wrap. Use caution and **NEVER** place your hands near the winch drum.
- Once there are 5 wraps of winch line on the drum attach your V Chain or V Bridle to the hook and a vehicle. Apply the parking brake of the vehicle to create some resistance. A recommended resistance is 10% of the Working Load Limit of the wire rope, or 1-2% of the wire ropes' break strength. The smaller the diameter of the winch drum, the more tension will be required.
- Have your helper continue to wind in the line as you guide the wire rope onto the winch drum. The line should follow the previous wraps and lay in the "valley" created between the wraps on the previous layer. Continue this process until the entire line is wound onto the winch drum.
- Winch out under load until there are 5 wraps remaining on the winch. Repeat the above procedure applying more resistance. Repeat this procedure 3 times. This process introduces a memory into the wire rope and allows the individual wires to "seat". You should never winch out unless the wire rope is under load as this will cause the rope to loosen on the drum and create "bird nesting". In free spool, do not pull the rope out at more than a walking speed. Pulling the rope out too quickly will cause the winch drum to continue to spin resulting in loose wraps.
- It is recommended that wire ropes be lubricated frequently with a good quality lubricant formulated for wire rope. Pull the winch line off the drum leaving 5 wraps on the drum. While wearing hand and eye protection follow the lubricant manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Finally, the winch line should be inspected before each use. For out of service criteria please visit www.baproducts.com/pages/specs-usage.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact your wire rope supplier or visit www.baproducts.com.

References:

WIRE ROPE USERS GUIDE, The Wire Rope Technical Board
Various catalogs and published articles

