



Winch or Ratchet?

Trucking continues to be a dangerous occupation, but new equipment has helped improve safety. When it's time to replace equipment or parts, don't just replace the damaged items, but invest in equipment that improves safety for your employees. It will save money in the long run.

MANAGEMENT

- ❑ Talk to your dealer to retrofit your winch system with a ratcheting system.
- ❑ Have a system for reporting damaged equipment and make sure it is used.
- ❑ Specify safety ratchet winches when ordering new flatbed and curtain-van trailers.

DRIVERS

- ❑ Report damaged equipment to your supervisor or repair shop.
- ❑ Carefully align your winch bar. Some drivers mark their bar and winch with a line so they know it is lined up and not likely to roll sideways.
- ❑ Never pull the bar down from directly over your head.
- ❑ Keep your face out of the recoil path to avoid getting hit.
- ❑ Never use an extension on a winch bar.
- ❑ Wear gloves that grip, even when wet.
- ❑ Use both hands on the winch bar.

www.KeepTruckingSafe.org

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Hazard



If you must use a winch bar, marking it may help with alignment.

Standard winch bars can slip and often hit workers in the face and other parts of the body, causing serious injury.

Solution



Ratchet systems provide better control and minimize the risk of workers getting struck by the winch bar.