SAILRITE®
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What Webbing Do I Need?

There are so many different types of webbing available that it can be overwhelming choosing the right one for your project. Not only are there various widths, types and strengths, but there are different fiber contents as well. Do you need polyester? Nylon? Polypropylene? Do you need webbing that will float in water? That's UV resistant? Or, do you have a specific type of webbing — let's say tubular polyester — but you're not sure what you can use it for. No worries. This guide explains all the various types of webbing Sailrite carries as well as their recommended uses. Our helpful charts will help you narrow down which webbing is best for your particular application.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Will your webbing be used in a wet marine environment? Or outdoors but in mostly dry weather? Will you be holding the webbing (as in a bag handle or leash) so you want a webbing with a soft hand? Do you need your webbing to hold human weight or will it be used for load bearing applications? These are all important factors to consider when choosing the right webbing for your project. This guide will help you sort through the most important considerations to keep in mind to help you find the right webbing for your project.

SUNBRELLA® ACRYLIC/ POLYESTER WEBBING

Sunbrella webbing is a great match for your Sunbrella marine fabric application. Its fade resistant properties means it will perfectly match the fabric even after years in the sun. It's a great choice for bimini and dodger support straps, bag handles, sail ties and more. Sunbrella webbing offers the best UV resistance, but it does not perform well in situations where webbing chafing occurs. It is not a high-strength webbing and should not be used for load bearing applications.

POLYPROPYLENE WEBBING

Polypropylene webbing is not as strong or as abrasion resistant as nylon or polyester, so take that into consideration for your webbing application. If you don't need a webbing with high UV resistance and strength, polypropylene webbing can be used for utility work, dog collars and leashes, luggage straps, bag handles and similar applications. Polypropylene webbing has the best color selection of the webbings we offer. It is not intended for weight bearing or towing applications.

DYNEEMA® WEBBING (UHMWPE)

Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene

When you need the best in strength, abrasion and UV resistance, choose Dyneema. This webbing is 15 times stronger than steel and is one of the strongest fibers in the world. We recommend this webbing for sail corner webbing straps, jacklines, climbing harnesses, rock climbing equipment, towing applications and anywhere you need a lot of strength and abrasion resistance in your webbing.

CAVEAT: Sailrite has done extensive testing of the few Dyneema webbing products in the marketplace and all have been far less impressive than their published breaking strengths.

POLYFAB™ 2" POLYESTER WEBBING

This UV resistant and high strength webbing is made by Polyfab USA and is intended to pair with their Polytex® Shade Cloth for creating shade sails and shade structures. The webbing matches the shade cloth perfectly for a coordinated shade sail. This abrasion resistant webbing can also be used for trampolines, hiking straps, bag handles, reinforcements and tie downs.

POLYESTER WEBBING — FLAT & TUBULAR

Polyester webbing is readily available and comes in both tubular and flat and in a variety of widths. Tubular webbing is hollow and you can fit a bungee cord through it to add spring and elasticity to the webbing (think harness tethers). Polyester webbing has high UV resistance and strength. It doesn't stretch much, even in water, and tubular is thicker than flat so it will be harder to sew. Tubular is also stronger than flat and has a higher breaking strength.

NYLON WEBBING — FLAT & TUBULAR

Nylon webbing doesn't have as high of UV resistance as polyester or Dyneema, but it is a high-strength webbing. It also has a high abrasion resistance and is available in both flat and tubular. Tubular nylon is thicker and stronger than flat nylon and can be used as harness tethers with bungee cord sewn inside the tube. Nylon doesn't float in water so take that into consideration if using nylon on your boat or at the marina. Due to its elasticity, it will stretch but recovers nicely. Nylon is the softest webbing we offer, making it a top choice for bag handles and pet collars and leashes.

SEAT BELT WEBBING

Certified seat belt webbing is engineered webbing designed to meet or exceed automotive safety standards. It's designed to be very thin with a high tensile strength due to the specific weave of the warp and weft fibers. Seat belt webbing also has specially designed run-proof weft selvages that are reinforced with strong threads that allow the webbing to remain flexible and comfortable for the seat occupant.

PLEASE NOTE: Sailrite's seat belt webbing is not certified for automotive use. It contains the same properties as automotive webbing, but it has not gone through the testing process for certification. We offer 2-inch seat belt webbing in both nylon and polyester. They are both strong, abrasion resistant webbings, but polyester has a higher UV resistance than nylon. Polyester seat belt webbing is stronger than nylon and is shrink, rot, mold and mildew resistant. Nylon has a softer hand than polyester and is ideal for luggage straps. Both are fairly easy to sew as they are thinner than tubular nylon and polyester. Their width makes them a great choice for fastener reinforcements at canvas edgings.

What Type of Webbing Do I Need for My Application?

Do you have a project in mind, but you're not sure which type of webbing you need? This chart lists the recommended webbings for a variety of common webbing projects. Do you need support straps for your bimini? Are you making a shade sail? Are you replacing the straps on your hiking pack? We list the best webbings for each application and the reasons why to make it easier for you to choose the right webbing for your DIY.

WEBBING APPLICATION	RECOMMENDED WEBBING	NOTES & OTHER INFORMATION
BAG HANDLES	• Flat Polyester • Flat Nylon • Sunbrella • Polypropylene • Polyfab™ • 2" Seat Belt Nylon • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	Any webbing can be used for bag handles, but nylon has softest hand and would make for the most comfortable handles.
CANVAS EDGE FOR FASTENER REINFORCEMENT	• Flat Polyester • Polyfab • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	Any webbing can be used as long as it's wide enough to accommodate fasteners. Webbing will be on underside of canvas so UV resistance is not a concern. Sailrite still recommends polyester as it is least likely to shrink.
FRAME/SUPPORT STRAPS	• Flat Polyester • Flat Nylon • Sunbrella	You don't need high strength. Select webbing with the tensioner in mind. Most webbing sliders work better with thick webbing.
HAMMOCK SUSPENSION	• Flat Polyester • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	You need a webbing with high strength and no stretch; check webbing breaking strength.
HARNESSES (MARINE & ROCK CLIMBING)	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Flat Nylon • Tubular Nylon • Dyneema	Polyester and Dyneema have higher UV resistance than nylon. Nylon has the most elasticity.
HIKING STRAPS	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Flat Nylon • Tubular Nylon • Sunbrella • Polyfab • 2" Seat Belt Nylon • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	Almost any webbing can be used; flat webbing is easier to sew and polyester has the highest UV rating. In most cases, the webbing is padded and further protected by a canvas sewn sleeve encasing the webbing.
JACKLINES	• Tubular Polyester • Dyneema • Extra Heavy Weight Nylon	Sailrite recommends Dyneema with a tested breaking strength of 4500 lbs. If you use our recommended jackline construction system (refer to blog 300224XHT), your webbing won't need that high of a breaking strength. Extra heavy weight nylon webbing was originally used for jacklines, but some were concerned that nylon webbing stretches too much. Tubular polyester webbing with a small diameter Dyneema cord threaded through the webbing's hollow center is the strongest configuration.
LUGGAGE STRAPS	• Flat Nylon • Sunbrella • Polypropylene • 2" Seat Belt Nylon	Any webbing is suitable but you don't need webbing with high strength or UV resistance; nylon will have the softest hand.
PET COLLARS, LEASHES & HARNESSES	• Flat Polyester • Flat Nylon • Sunbrella • Polypropylene	Strength of webbing is not a big concern; nylon has the softest hand and would be the most comfortable.

WEBBING APPLICATION	RECOMMENDED WEBBING	NOTES & OTHER INFORMATION
REINFORCEMENTS	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Polyfab • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	You don't want nylon webbing as it stretches.
RIGGING EQUIPMENT	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Flat Nylon • Tubular Nylon • Dyneema	You need a webbing with high strength and abrasion resistance; nylon will have some stretch.
ROCK CLIMBING LINES	• Tubular Polyester • Tubular Nylon • Dyneema	Tubular webbing is stronger and easier to knot than flat webbing for connecting lines; Dyneema is strongest webbing available; nylon stretches and line would have give if climber falls.
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Flat Nylon • Tubular Nylon • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	You need a webbing with high strength and abrasion resistance; check webbing breaking strength.
SAIL CORNERS	• Flat Polyester • Flat Nylon • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester • 2" Seat Belt Nylon	Polyester and Dyneema have a higher UV resistance than nylon. Dyneema is strong and thin, making it easy to sew.
SAIL TIES	• Flat Polyester • Sunbrella® • Polypropylene • Dyneema®	You need a webbing with high UV resistance; strength of webbing is not a concern. Polypropylene is commonly used but only lasts a season or two. It is the least expensive webbing option.
SHADE SAIL EDGINGS & SHADE STRUCTURES	• Polyfab	Polyfab webbing is designed to pair with Parasol™ and Polytex® Shade Cloth.
SPORTS EQUIPMENT & GEAR	• Flat Nylon	For chin straps, lacing, etc., nylon will be softest against skin; nylon has lower UV resistance than other webbing, so store indoors to prolong lifespan.
TENTS	• Flat Polyester • Flat Nylon	High enough strength and easier to sew, less bulky than tubular.
TETHERS (MARINE & ROCK CLIMBING)	• Tubular Polyester • Tubular Nylon	Tubular webbing allows you to insert a bungee cord in the center to gather and cinch up the webbing to keep it out of the way and prevent tripping. Nylon has less UV resistance than polyester.
TIE DOWNS	• Flat Polyester • Tubular Polyester • Polyfab • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	You need a webbing with high strength and abrasion resistance with little stretch.
TOWING APPLICATIONS	• Tubular Polyester • Flat Polyester • Dyneema • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	Polyester and Dyneema have high strength, abrasion resistance and little stretch.
TRAMPOLINES	• Flat Polyester • Polyfab • 2" Seat Belt Polyester	Polyester has high UV resistance and rot, mold and mildew resitance.
UTILITY WORK	• All Types	Any webbing is suitable and is generally chosen according to aesthetic requirements.

Types of Webbing & Their Most Important Qualities

This chart lists all the webbing types we offer at Sailrite along with their properties. Some webbings have a higher UV resistance than others, some are stronger, and some are even easier to sew based on the thickness of the webbing. All these factors are important to consider when using webbing in your project. You can use this chart along with the previous one to determine which webbing is best suited for marine applications, hammock suspension, hiking straps, bag handles, towing and lifting applications, and more.

WEBBING	WIDTH	THICKNESS/ WEIGHT	UV RESISTANCE	ABRASION RESISTANCE	STRENGTH	SEWABILITY	OTHER QUALITIES
FLAT NYLON	1/2" - 2"	0.037" - 0.113"	★★	★★★	★★★	Varies Based on Thickness	• Stretches/Recovers • Doesn't Float • Soft Hand • Resilient at Tension Points
TUBULAR NYLON	1" - 2"	0.068" - 0.070"	★★	★★★	★★★★	Harder to Sew Due to Thickness	• Stretches/Recovers • Doesn't Float • Soft Hand • Hollow — Can Insert Bungee Cord
FLAT POLYESTER	1"	0.045"	★★★	★★★	★★★	Fair	• Stretch Resistant
TUBULAR POLYESTER	1/2" - 1"	0.061" - 0.067"	★★★	★★★	★★★★	Harder to Sew Due to Thickness	• Stretch Resistant • Hollow — Can Insert Bungee Cord
DYNEEMA	1" - 2"	N/A	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Easy	• Low Stretch • Floats • Long-Lasting • Resistant to Acids & Alkalis
POLYPROPYLENE	1" - 3"	0.043" - 0.069"	★	★★	★	Varies Based on Thickness	• Floats • Stretch & Shrink Resistant • Mildew Resistant
POLYFAB™ 2" POLYESTER*	2"	0.035"	★★★	★★★	★★★★	Easy	• Shrink & Stretch Resistant • Rot, Mold & Mildew Resistant
SUNBRELLA® ACRYLIC & POLYESTER	1"	0.083"	★★★★	★★	★★	Harder to Sew Due to Thickness	• Fade Resistant • Matches Sunbrella Marine Fabric Colors
2" SEAT BELT NYLON*	2"	0.042"	★★	★★★	★★★	Fair	• Stretches/Recovers • Doesn't Float • Soft Hand • Resilient at Tension Points
2" SEAT BELT POLYESTER*	2"	0.045"	★★★	★★★	★★★	Fair	• Shrink, Rot, Mold & Mildew Resistant • Flame Retardant

*Not certified for automotive use.

★ Low
★★ Medium
★★★ High
★★★★ Higher
★★★★★ Highest