



**PACKAGING AND FACILITY SOLUTIONS**

# STRAPPING GUIDE

Explore the differences between polypropylene, polyester, and steel strapping to understand their unique benefits and applications

## Get In Touch With Us

For more information, please contact your Spicers Sales Consultant.

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# WHAT IS STRAPPING? HOW DOES IT WORK?

Strapping is a flat, flexible material designed to minimize product damage by maintaining constant tension on the load. This tension prevents the load from shifting or slipping out of place. For added protection, edge protectors can be used to safeguard corners and further stabilize the load.

All strapping is applied under tension, which exerts compressive force on a stack of items or packages. This force pushes the individual items together, increasing the friction between adjacent surfaces. The tension must be properly balanced to secure the load without causing product damage.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF STRAPPING

When it comes to securing your loads, choosing the right type of strapping is essential. From durable steel for heavy-duty applications to flexible polyester and polypropylene for lighter loads, each material offers unique benefits to meet your packaging needs.



### POLYPROPYLENE HAND GRADE

**Most economical and ideal for light to medium loads**

**Key Points:**

- High elongation allows it to absorb shock during transit
- Resistant to corrosion and moisture
- Best suited for light to medium loads
- Can deform under prolonged tension

**SEALING TYPES:**

**Wire Buckle, Plastic Buckle, Metal Seal, Heat Seal, Friction Weld**



### POLYPROPYLENE MACHINE GRADE

**Efficient, cost-effective solution for automated packaging**

**Key Points:**

- Requires a semi-automatic or automatic strapping machine
- Ideal for high-speed bundling of small to medium-size packages
- Embossed for superior tensioning and heat sealing
- Designed with "memory" to retain bundle tension
- Economical and best suited for light to medium loads
- Absorbs shock during transit due to high elongation
- Resistant to corrosion and moisture
- May deform under prolonged tension

**SEALING TYPES:**

**Wire Buckle, Plastic Buckle, Metal Seal, Heat Seal, Friction Weld**

Not all products are available in all regions.

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## POLYESTER STRAPPING

**A safer, cost-effective alternative to steel strapping**



### Key Points:

- Designed to replace 1/2", 5/8", and 3/4" regular duty steel strap
- Safer than sharp-edged steel strapping
- Superior holding power with forgiveness for load shifts
- High impact and corrosion resistance
- Cost savings of up to 40% per load compared to steel strapping
- Excellent tensile strength and retained tension during transit
- Superior elasticity keeps loads compressed, even after settling
- Suitable for heavy-duty applications across various industries

### SEALING TYPES:

**Friction Seal, Heat Seal, Steel Seals**

## STEEL STRAPPING

**The industry standard for medium to heavy loads**



### Key Points:

- Most widely used strapping material in the packaging industry
- High tension rating and excellent column strength for heavy-duty applications
- Resistant to high temperatures
- Painted and waxed for smooth machine feeding and improved operator safety.

### SEALING TYPES:

**Open, Push Closed, Thread-on, Open Flange**

## CONVERTING FROM STEEL TO POLYESTER STRAPPING

### Why Make the Switch?

Many operations choose steel strapping for its strength, making it suitable for very heavy or non-compressible loads. However, its lack of elasticity can be problematic with settling or shrinking loads, like lumber, as it may loosen and allow items to escape.

In contrast, polyester strapping is more versatile. Its ability to stretch accommodates fluctuations in load size, ensuring that everything stays tightly packed and secure, making it a better option for applications where load dynamics are a concern.

Contact your Spicers Sales Representative to learn more about making the switch from Steel to Polyester Strapping.

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