



FULL BODY HARNESS Care & Maintenance



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A properly maintained full body harness should last several years. Full body harnesses typically have no fixed life expectancy because that will depend upon the environment where they are used and the method of storage. Ideally, full body harnesses should be kept in cool, clean environments where they are not exposed to direct sunlight. Most users can store their full body harness in the same equipment bag that contains their other personal protective equipment. Personal lockers are another good place to store full body harnesses.

If a full body harness has arrested a fall, it should be discarded. Although the harness may not show any visible signs of damage, the danger associated with using an impacted harness is great. A new harness is inexpensive compared to the risk of putting an impacted harness back into service, and no manufacturer supports using their full body harnesses after a fall.

Full body harnesses can be cleaned and laundered with warm water and mild cleansers, which will not damage the webbing material in most cases. If your full body harness cannot be cleaned this way, industrial-strength

cleaners can be used, assuming the manufacturer gives its permission. Manufacturers can supply a list of acceptable industrial cleaners for use on their specific products.

Full body harnesses can be labeled to identify their owners. Most manufacturers now include a blank name tag somewhere on the harness. In the past, users identified their harnesses by writing their name or department on the equipment. We now know that alcohol-based markers damage and destroy the webbing and should not be used to label your full body harness. Water-based markers may be used with the manufacturer's permission.

Users and manufacturers of fall protection equipment are highly liable. A lawsuit follows almost every fall-related accident, so manufacturers, consultants, trainers and safety professionals must act accordingly. Although it may seem trivial to ask a manufacturer's permission to use a marker on one of its harnesses, it is still necessary because of the liability associated with its use. The manufacturer should endorse any modifications to its fall protection equipment, and a manufacturer cannot be held responsible for modifications to its products made by another party.

