





















# The Basic Guide to Winching Techniques

Every winching situation has the potential for personal injury. In order to minimize that risk, it is important that you read this Basic Guide carefully, familiarize yourself with the operation of your winch before having to use it, and be constantly safety oriented. In this Guide, we will set forth many of the basic rules of safe winch operation. However, because every winching situation is different, your constant good judgment and consistent focus on safety are of great importance.

SYMBOL	EXPLANATION
	Read the Instruction Manual
	Always Wear Hearing and Eye Protection
	Never Use Winch as a Hoist
	Properly Seat Load in Throat of Hook
	Wind Rope on Bottom of Drum
	Finger/Fairlead Crushing Hazard
	Hand Piercing/Cutting Hazard
	Explosion/Bursting Hazard
	Sharp Edge Hazard

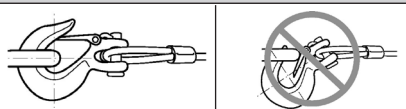
SYMBOL	EXPLANATION
	Always Wear Leather Gloves
	Do Not Move People
	Always Use Supplied Hook Strap
	Never Apply Load to Hook Tip or Latch
	Never Wind Rope Over Top of Drum
	Fairlead Pinch Point
	Hot Surface Hazard
	Fire and Burn Hazard
	Moving Parts Hazard

## Warnings and Cautions



As you read these instructions, you will see WARNINGS, CAUTIONS, NOTICES and NOTES. Each message has a specific purpose. WARNINGS are safety messages that indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided could result in serious injury or death. CAUTIONS are safety messages that indicate a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury. A CAUTION may also be used to alert against unsafe practice. CAUTIONS and WARNINGS identify the hazard, indicate how to avoid the hazard, and advise of the probable consequence of not avoiding the hazard. NOTICES are messages to avoid property damage. NOTES are additional information to help you complete a procedure. **PLEASE WORK SAFELY!**

### WARNING



#### MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD

Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.

- **Always** ensure hook latch is closed and not supporting load.
- **Never** apply load to hook tip or latch. Apply load only to the center of hook.
- **Never** use a hook whose throat opening has increased, or whose tip is bent or twisted.
- **Always** use a hook with a latch.
- **Always** ensure the operator and bystanders are aware of the stability of the vehicle and/or load.
- **Always** keep wired remote control lead and power cord clear of the drum, rope, and rigging. Inspect for cracks, pinches, frayed wires or loose connections. Damaged components must be replaced before operation.
- **Always** pass remote lead thru window when used in vehicle.

### WARNING



#### MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD




Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.






##### General Safety:

- **Always** Know Your Winch. Take time to fully read the Instructions and/or Operations Guide, and/or Basic Guide to Winching Techniques, in order to understand your winch and its operations.
- **Never** exceed winch or winch rope rated capacity. Double line using a snatch block to reduce winch load.
- **Always** wear heavy leather gloves when handling winch rope.
- **Never** use winch or winch rope for towing. Shock loads can damage, overload and break rope.
- **Never** use a winch to secure a load.
- **Never** operate this winch when under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.
- **Never** operate this winch if you are under 16 years of age.






##### Installation Safety:




- **Always** choose a mounting location that is sufficiently strong to withstand the maximum pulling capacity of your winch.
- **Always** use grade 5 (grade 8.8 metric) or better hardware.
- **Never** weld mounting bolts.
- **Always** use factory approved mounting hardware, components, and accessories.
- **Never** use bolts that are too long.
- **Always** complete the winch installation and hook attachment before installing the wiring.
- **Always** keep hands clear of winch rope, hook loop, hook and fairlead opening during installation, operation, and when spooling in or out.
- **Always** position fairlead with warning readily visible on top.
- **Always** prestretch rope and respool under load before use. Tightly wound rope reduces chances of "binding", which can damage the rope.

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	
<p><b>MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.</b></p> <p><b>Winching Safety:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Always</b> inspect winch rope, hook, and slings before operating winch. Frayed, kinked or damaged winch rope must be replaced immediately. Damaged components must be replaced before operation. Protect parts from damage.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> remove any element or obstacle that may interfere with safe operation of the winch.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> be certain the anchor you select will withstand the load and the strap or chain will not slip.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> use supplied hook strap whenever spooling winch rope in or out, during installation and during operation.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> require operators and bystanders to be aware of vehicle and or load.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> be aware of stability of vehicle and load during winching, keep others away. Alert all bystanders of an unstable condition.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> unspool as much wire rope as possible when rigging. Double line or pick distant anchor point.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> take time to use appropriate rigging techniques for a winch pull.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> touch winch rope or hook while someone else is at the control switch or during winching operation.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> engage or disengage clutch if winch is under load, winch rope is in tension or drum is moving.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> touch winch rope or hook while under tension or under load.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> stand clear of winch rope and load and keep others away while winching.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> use vehicle to pull load on winch rope. Combined load or shock load can damage, overload and break rope.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> wrap winch rope back onto itself. Use a choker chain or tree trunk protector on the anchor.</li> </ul>	

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	
	
<p><b>FALLING OR CRUSHING HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Always</b> stand clear, keep hands clear, keep others away.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> operate winch with less than 5 wraps of rope around the drum. Rope could come loose from the drum, as the rope attachment to the drum is not designed to hold a load.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> use winch as a hoist or to suspend a load.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> be certain anchor will withstand load, use appropriate rigging and take time to rig correctly.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> use winch to lift or move persons.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> use excessive effort to freespool winch rope.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> use proper posture/lifting technique or get lifting assistance while handling and installing product.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> spool the rope onto the drum in the direction specified by the winch warning label on the winch and/or documentation. This is required for the automatic brake (if so equipped) to function properly.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> spool the winch rope onto the drum as indicated by the drum rotation label.</li> </ul>	

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	
<p><b>CUT AND BURN HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.</b></p> <p><b>To avoid injury to hands and fingers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Always</b> wear heavy leather gloves when handling winch rope.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> be aware of possible hot surfaces at winch motor, drum or rope during or after winch use.</li> </ul>	

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	
	
<p><b>CHEMICAL AND FIRE HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to serious injury or death.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Always</b> remove jewelry and wear eye protection.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> route electrical cables across sharp edges.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> route electrical cables near parts that get hot.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> route electrical cables through or near moving parts.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> place the supplied terminal boots on wires and terminals as directed by the installation instructions.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> lean over battery while making connections.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> route electrical cables over battery terminals.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> short battery terminals with metal objects.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> verify area is clear of fuel lines, fuel tank, brake lines, electrical wires, etc., when drilling.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> consult operator's manual for proper wiring details.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> insulate and protect all exposed wiring and electrical terminals.</li> </ul>	

 <b>CAUTION</b>	
	
<p><b>CUT AND BURN HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Never</b> let winch rope slip through your hands.</li> </ul>	

 <b>CAUTION</b>	
	
<p><b>MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD</b>  <b>Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.</b></p> <p><b>To avoid injury to hands or fingers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Never</b> leave remote control where it can be activated during free spooling, rigging, or when the winch is not being used.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> leave the winch remote control plugged in when installing, freespooling, rigging, servicing or when the winch is not being used.</li> </ul>	

<b>NOTICE</b>
<p><b>AVOID WINCH AND EQUIPMENT DAMAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Always</b> avoid side pulls which can pile up wire rope at one end of the drum. This can damage wire rope or winch.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> ensure the clutch is fully engaged or disengaged.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> use care to not damage the vehicle frame when anchoring to a vehicle during a winching operation.</li> <li>• <b>Never</b> submerge winch in water.</li> <li>• <b>Always</b> store the remote control in a protected, clean, dry area.</li> </ul>



## CAUTION

### MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD

Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.

#### General Safety:

- **Always** Know Your Winch: Take time to fully read and understand the included Installation and Operations guide, and Basic Guide to Winching Techniques, in order to understand your winch and the winching operation.
- **Never** operate this winch if you are under 16 years of age.
- **Never** operate this winch when under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.
- **Never** exceed winch or wire rope rated capacity. Double line using a snatch block to reduce winch load.

#### Installation Safety:

- **Always** choose a mounting location that is sufficiently strong to withstand the maximum pulling capacity of your winch.
- **Always** use factory approved switches, remote controls, accessories and installation components.
- **Always** use grade 5 or better hardware, never weld bolts and never use longer bolts than those supplied from factory.
- **Always** complete winch mounting and attachment of hook to hook loop before wiring winch during installation.
- **Always** position fairlead with WARNING label on top.
- **Always** spool the wire rope onto the drum as indicated by the drum rotation label on the winch. Required for automatic brake to work (if winch is so equipped) and for correct installation orientation.
- **Always** prestretch wire rope and respool under load before use. Tightly wound wire rope reduces chances of "binding", which is wire rope working it's way down into a loosely wound wire rope layer, and catching or damaging itself.



## CAUTION

### MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD

Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.

#### Winching Safety:

- **Always** inspect winch installation and wire rope condition before operating winch. Frayed, kinked or damaged wire rope must be replaced immediately. Loose or damaged winch installation must be corrected immediately.
- **Never** leave remote control plugged into winch while free spooling, rigging, or sitting idle.
- **Never** hook wire rope back onto itself. This damages the wire rope. Always use a choker chain, wire choker rope or tree trunk protector on the anchor.
- **Always** prior to winching, remove any element that may interfere with safe winch operation.
- **Always** take your time when rigging for a winch pull.
- **Always** be certain the anchor you select will withstand the load, and the strap or chain will not slip.
- **Never** engage or disengage clutch if winch is under load, wire rope is in tension or wire rope drum is moving.
- **Always** unspool as much wire rope as possible when rigging. Double line or pick distant anchor point.
- **Never** winch with less than 5 wraps of wire rope around the drum, the wire rope could come loose from the drum.
- **Always** stand clear of wire rope and load during operation.
- **Never** touch wire rope or hook while in tension or under load.
- **Never** touch wire rope or hook while someone else is at the control switch or during winching operation.
- **Never** touch wire rope or hook while remote control is plugged into winch.
- **Always** stand clear of wire rope and load and keep others away while winching.



## CAUTION

### MOVING PARTS ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD

Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.

#### Winching Safety:

- **Always** require operator and bystanders to be aware of stability during winching of vehicle and/or load.
- **Always** keep remote control lead clear of the drum, wire rope and rigging. Inspect for cracks, pinches, frayed wires or loose connections. Replace if damaged.
- **Always** pass remote control through a window to avoid pinching lead in door, when using remote inside a vehicle.



## CAUTION



### CUT AND BURN HAZARD

Failure to observe these instructions could lead to minor or moderate injury.

#### To avoid injury to hands or fingers:

- **Always** wear heavy leather gloves when handling a wire rope.
- **Never** let wire rope slip through your hands.

#### To avoid injury to hands or fingers:

- **Always** be aware of possible hot surface at winch motor, drum or wire rope during or after winch use.

## NOTICE

### AVOID WINCH AND EQUIPMENT DAMAGE

- **Always** avoid continuous side pulls which can pile up wire rope at one end of the drum. This can damage your wire rope or winch.
- **Always** ensure the clutch is fully engaged or disengaged.
- **Never** use winch to tow other vehicles. Shock loads can momentarily exceed capacity of wire rope and winch.
- **Always** use care to not damage your frame when anchoring your vehicle during a winching operation.
- **Never** "jog" wire rope under load. Shock loads can momentarily exceed capacity of wire rope and winch.
- **Never** use winch to secure a load during transport.
- **Never** submerge winch in water.
- **Always** store the remote control in a protected, clean, dry area.

## ELECTRIC WINCH BASICS

**⚠ WARNING**  
Never operate or install a winch without reading or understanding the operator's manual

So, you have your Warn winch and you're ready to get out on the trails: climb a few boulders, splash a little mud, traverse the occasional stream. Basically, you're ready to explore the backcountry and otherwise have a great time.

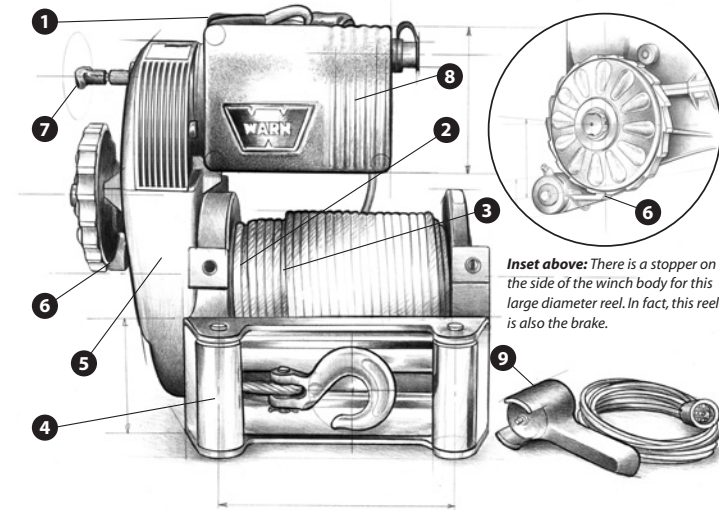
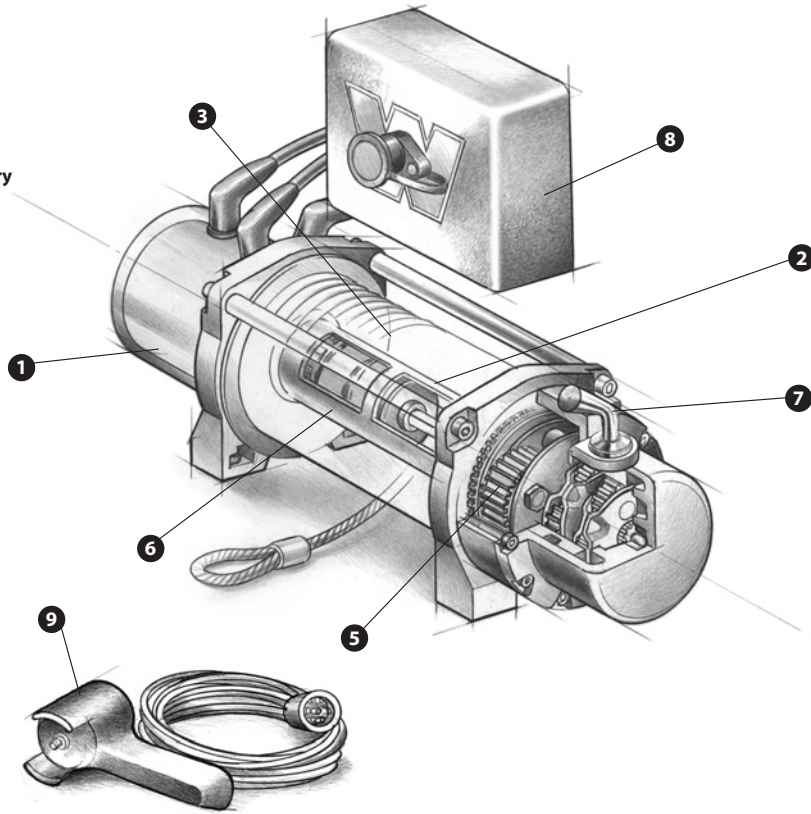
Well, if you're smart enough to go prepared with the best, you're probably smart enough to know that to keep having a great time, you need to fully understand your winch and the winching operation.

That's exactly what this guide intends to do: provide you with a basic understanding of your winch and teach you the basics of proper winching

techniques. But before we get started, we must emphasize that the information in this guide is general in nature. Because no two situations are alike, it would be nearly impossible to review them all. We can, however, provide you with the general principles and techniques. Then it is up to you to take the time to analyze the situation and apply the proper technique.

Along with a little common sense, the guidelines laid out in this book can help you keep off-roading fun. Just remember to think through each situation before you act and **TREAD LIGHTLY!**

Structural components of a planetary gear winch



*Inset above: There is a stopper on the side of the winch body for this large diameter reel. In fact, this reel is also the brake.*

The 8274-50 winch has a different structure. This winch uses spur gears for reduction. Moreover, it has an automatic disc type brake on the body side.

To start, you should familiarize yourself with your Warn winch and each of its components: Practice using your winch before using it on the trail.

- 1 Motor** Typically the winch motor is powered by the vehicle's battery. The motor provides power to the gear mechanism, which turns the winch drum and winds the wire rope.
- 2 Winch Drum** The winch drum is the cylinder onto which the wire rope feeds. The drum is driven by the motor and drive train. Its direction can be changed using the remote control.
- 3 Wire Rope** The wire rope's diameter and length are determined by the winch's load capacity and design. Wrapped around the winch drum and fed through the fairlead, the wire rope is looped at the end to accept the hook's clevis pin.
- 4 Fairlead** When using the winch at an angle, the fairlead (or wire lead) acts to guide the wire rope onto the spooling drum. It minimizes damage to the wire rope while it goes through the winch mount or bumper.
- 5 Gear Train** The reduction gear converts the winch motor power into a large pulling force. The gear train design

makes it possible for the winch to be lighter and more compact.

- 6 Braking System** The brake is automatically applied to the winch drum when the winch motor is stopped and there is load on the wire rope. The brake prevents the winch from paying out line, which in turn holds the vehicle in place.
- 7 Clutch** The clutch allows the operator to manually disengage the spooling drum from the gear train, enabling the drum to rotate freely (known as "freespooling"). Engaging the clutch "locks" the winch drum back onto the gear train.
- 8 Control Box** Using electrical power from the vehicle's battery, the control box solenoids switch power to the motor, enabling the operator to change the direction of the winch drum rotation.
- 9 Remote Control** The remote control plugs into the winch control box, allowing the operator to control the winch direction, as well as stand well clear of the wire rope while operating the winch.

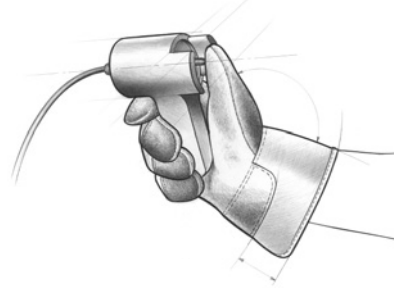
**⚠ CAUTION**  
Never engage or disengage the clutch if winch is under load, wire rope is in tension, or wire rope drum is moving.

## HOW THE WINCH WORKS

### Winch Mechanics

Now that you've familiarized yourself with your Warn winch and its components, we can begin reviewing how it works. The major advantage of an electric-powered winch is that it can provide reliable service for intermittent utility and recreational use even while the vehicle's engine is stalled — assuming, of course, that sufficient battery current is available. Your winch can operate at high current loads, and, for this reason, the control box uses a high current control system to safely handle the current flow.

It is important to understand that the longer the pull, the more heat that is



### Control Of Your Winch

The winch is controlled by the hand held remote control to allow the operator to stand clear while controlling the winching process. The remote control provides control of the forward or reverse rotation of the spooling drum.

### How the Winch Reacts to Load

Warn winches are rated by pulling capacity. The maximum pulling capacity occurs on the first layer of wire rope on the drum. As the layers increase, the pulling power decreases. It's the mathematics of winching. Exceeding the winch capacity could cause the winch to fail or the wire rope to break. Thinking through how you intend to use your winch now, could save you a big headache later.

In addition, you'll also want to make sure that your winch's mounting system and your vehicle's frame can accommodate the rated load of your winch.

So analyze your situation. Use your judgement to calculate how much weight you intend to pull. Calculate the gross weight and multiply by 1.5 and then do not exceed the rating of your winch or wire rope.



The winch is controlled by the hand held remote control to allow the operator to stand clear during the winching process.

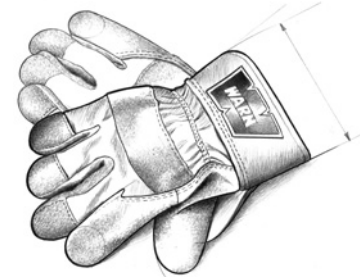
created, just like a hot plate. Prolonged winching without cooling the winch motor will damage the motor. Also, if the engine is idling during winching, the battery may drain faster than it is charging. So pay close attention to your voltage gauge to make sure you aren't draining your battery too low to start your vehicle.

## WINCH ACCESSORIES YOU'LL WANT TO HAVE WITH YOU

Alone, the winch is not much more than a simple tool. But when used with certain accessories and enhancements, your Warn winch can become a versatile and productive tool. In this section, we'll review several of these items. Some are vital to the safe operation of your winch, while others offer added versatility and convenience.

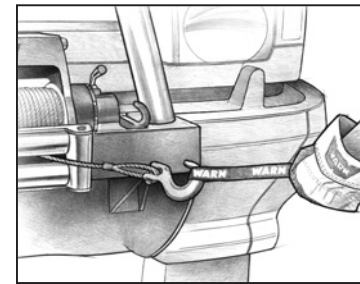


**Snatch Block** Used properly, the multi-purpose snatch block allows you to: (1) increase your winch's pulling power; and (2) change your pulling direction without damaging the wire rope. Proper use of the snatch block is covered in "Before You Pull!"



**Gloves** Wire rope, through use, will develop "barbs" which can slice skin. It is extremely important to wear protective gloves while operating the winch or handling the wire rope. Avoid loose fitting clothes or anything that could become entangled in the wire rope and other moving parts.

**Hook Strap** Use to hold the hook and keep fingers away from the fairlead as the wire rope is being spooled in. Winches develop tremendous pulling forces and can easily remove fingers and limbs that are placed in pinch points. Put the hook into the loop and hold the strap between the thumb and forefingers.

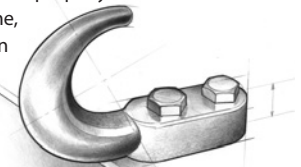


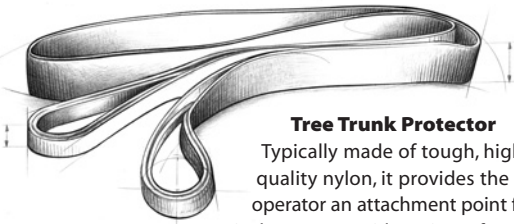
**Clevis/D-Shackles** The D-Shackle is a safe means for connecting the looped ends of cables, straps and snatch blocks. The shackle's pin is threaded to allow easy removal.



**Choker Chain** Can be used to hook-up to another vehicle or sharp objects for an anchor point. Chains, however, will damage or kill trees.

**Tow Hooks** Secured properly to your vehicle's frame, tow hooks provide an attachment point for wire hooks, straps, and chains.

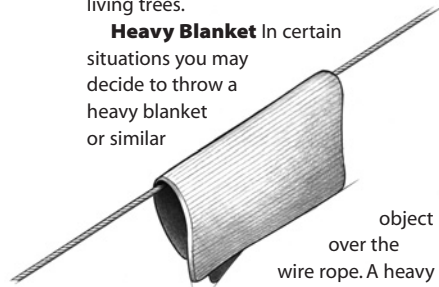




### Tree Trunk Protector

Typically made of tough, high-quality nylon, it provides the operator an attachment point for the winch rope to a wide variety of anchor points and objects, as well as protect living trees.

**Heavy Blanket** In certain situations you may decide to throw a heavy blanket or similar



object over the wire rope. A heavy blanket, such as a quilted mover's blanket, can absorb energy should the wire rope break. Place it on the wire rope midway between the winch and the anchor point. Do this before the wire rope is put under tension. Do not approach or move the blanket once tension is applied. Do not allow it to get pulled into the fairlead. If necessary to move or remove the blanket, slack the tension on the wire rope first.



**Recovery Strap** Never use a recovery strap in a winching operation. Because it is designed to stretch, it stores energy and could react like a rubber band should your rigging fail. Use the recovery strap to "snatch" out a stuck vehicle.

### CAUTION

Never attach a recovery strap to the winch hook to increase the length of a pull. Never attempt to tow a vehicle with the recovery strap attached directly to the winch hook. Never use "bungee" straps that develop tremendous and potentially dangerous amounts of force when stretched.

**Shovels & Hand Tools** Quite often during winching activities, you'll find yourself in need of some additional help. You may want to stow equipment such as a shovel, an axe and a Hi-Lift jack for additional assistance when needed.

**Backup Parts** Important backup parts to carry for backcountry travel should include an extra screw-pin shackle, snatch block, and remote control unit. For severe and continued winch use, consider including an extra wire rope and winch hook.

**Toolbox Items** Items to bring along include hand wrenches, screwdrivers, pliers, and tools to change wire rope.

**Booster Cables** Many roadside emergencies stem from a dead battery. To prevent exhausting your electrical source, you can install a dual battery system and a battery isolator kit. Also, it's wise to include battery booster cables and the Warn quick-connect cable system.

### Battery Recommendations

A fully charged conventional automotive battery with a minimum rating of 650 cold cranking amps is recommended to obtain peak performance from your winch. Make sure all electrical connections are clean and tight.

## BEFORE YOU PULL

Practice using your winch before you get stuck. A real situation is no time to be learning how to use your winch.

Make sure new wire rope is stretched before it is first used. Unspool the full length of the wire rope, leaving 5 wraps on the drum. Apply at least 500 pounds of tension. You can do this by setting up an anchor point and pulling your vehicle to it on a slightly inclined, flat surface and letting the vehicle roll.

Whether you're recovering another vehicle or pulling a stump from the ground, knowing the proper winching techniques can help keep you and others around you safe. And perhaps the most important part of the winching process, regardless of the situation, is what you do before you pull.

In this section, we'll show you the basic fundamentals for effective winching. However, it is up to you to analyze the situation and make the decisions necessary for the proper use of your winch. Apply your knowledge of your winch and the basic fundamentals you've practiced and adjust your techniques to your unique situation. Some keys to remember when using your Warn winch:

1. Always take your time to assess your situation and plan your pull carefully.
2. Always take your time when using a winch.
3. Use the right equipment for your situation.
4. Always wear leather gloves and do not allow the wire rope to slide through your hands.
5. You and only you should handle the wire rope and operate the remote control switch.
6. Think safety at all times.
7. Practice. Practice and practice the steps.

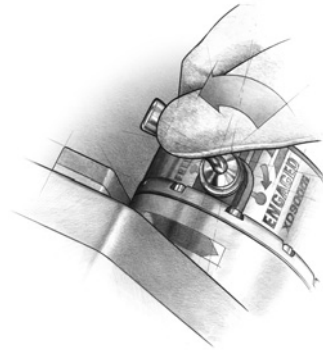


Single line pull

### Rigging for the Pull

The following steps describe how to recover your vehicle with rigging a single line pull. Double or multiple line rigging techniques follow the same basic steps, but use a snatch block to assist the process.

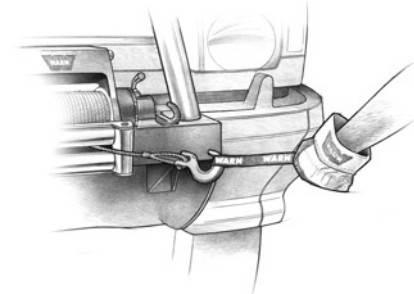
**Step 1: PUT ON GLOVES.**



### WARNING

Always use supplied hook strap to hold hook when spooling wire rope in or out.

**Step 2: DISENGAGE CLUTCH.** To allow free spooling of the winch drum, rotate the clutch lever on the winch to Disengage. Freespooling conserves battery power.



### WARNING

Always keep hands and clothing clear of the wire rope, hook and fairlead opening during operation and when spooling.

**Step 3: FREE THE WINCH HOOK AND ATTACH HOOK STRAP.** Free the winch hook from its anchor point. Attach hook strap to the hook (if not attached).

**CAUTION**

Never attempt to disengage the clutch while wire rope is under tension. Never engage the clutch while the drum is rotating. Always make sure the clutch is fully engaged or disengaged.



**Step 4: PULL WIRE TO ANCHOR POINT.**

Pull out enough wire rope to reach your anchor point. Be sure to keep a certain amount of tension in the wire. It can become twisted and overwrap when slackened, leading to wire rope damage. To prevent losing the end, hold the winch hook in the hook strap while you work.

**CAUTION**

Never leave remote control plugged into winch while free spooling, rigging or sitting idle.

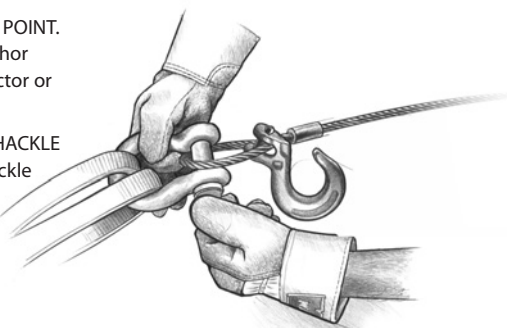


**Step 5: SECURE TO THE ANCHOR POINT.**

Once you've established your anchor point, secure the tree trunk protector or choker chain around the object.

**Step 6: ATTACH THE CLEVIS/D-SHACKLE AND HOOK STRAP.**

Attach the shackle to the two ends of the strap or chain and through the hook loop, being careful not to over tighten (tighten and back-off 1/2 turn).



**How to choose an anchor point:**

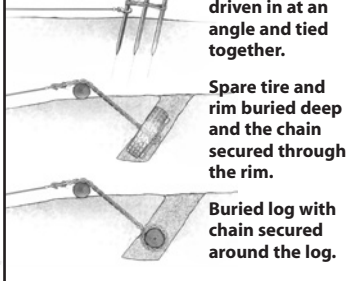
A secure anchor is critical to winching operations. An anchor must be strong enough to hold while winching. Natural anchors include trees, stumps, and rocks. Hook the cable as low as possible. If no natural anchors are available, when recovering another vehicle, your vehicle becomes the anchor point. In this case, be sure to put the transmission in neutral, apply the hand brake and block its wheels to prevent your vehicle from moving.

Ideally, you'll want an anchor point that will enable you to pull straight in the direction the vehicle will move. This allows the wire rope to wind tightly and evenly onto the spooling drum. An anchor point as far away as possible will provide the winch with its greatest pulling power.

Stakes or axles, driven in at an angle and tied together.

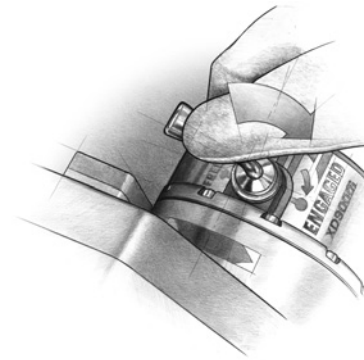
Spare tire and rim buried deep and the chain secured through the rim.

Buried log with chain secured around the log.

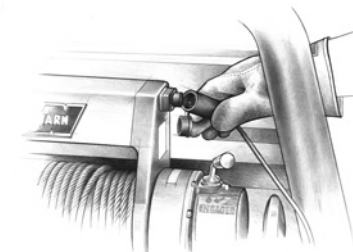


**CAUTION**

Never hook the wire rope back onto itself. This damages the wire rope.



**Step 7: LOCK THE CLUTCH.** Lock the winch drum by rotating the clutch lever on the winch to Engage.



**Step 8: CONNECT THE REMOTE CONTROL.** Be careful not to let the remote control cord dangle in front of the winch. If you choose to control the winch from inside your vehicle, always pass the remote through a window to avoid pinching the cord in the door. **Always disconnect the remote control when not in use.**



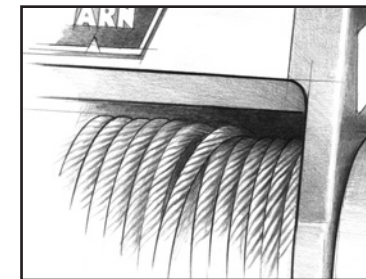
**Step 9: PUT WIRE ROPE UNDER TENSION.** Using the winch switch, slowly wind the wire rope until no slack remains. Once the wire rope is under tension, stand well clear, and never step over it.

**Step 10: CHECK YOUR ANCHOR.** Make sure all connections are secured and free of debris before continuing with the winching procedure.

**PULLING**

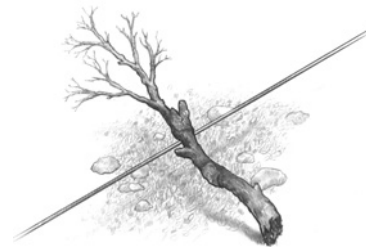
As you probably have already noticed, there are many things to do and consider before you actually begin pulling. Think through what you're doing and you can keep yourself and those around you out of harm's way.

Operating your winch properly is so important, in fact, you should practice these techniques before having to face the distractions and stresses of a real winching situation.



**Step 11: CHECK WIRE ROPE.** The wire rope should be neatly wound around the spooling drum. Improper winding can cause damage to the wire rope.

**Step 12: LAY SOMETHING OVER THE WIRE ROPE,** if you decide it is necessary, midway between the winch and the anchor point to absorb energy should the wire rope snap loose. Tree limbs, heavy jackets, chain, back pack and the like may be used for this purpose.



**CAUTION**

Never use the winch as a hoist. Never use the winch's wire rope to tow another vehicle.

**CAUTION**

Never winch when there are less than 5 wraps of wire rope around the winch drum.

**NOTICE**

Always avoid continuous side pulls which can pile up wire rope at one end of the drum. This pile up of wire can damage wire rope or winch.



Establish "no people" zones:

**Step 13: MAKE YOUR INTENTIONS CLEAR.** Be sure that everyone in the immediate vicinity surrounding the winching operation is completely aware of your intentions before you pull.

Declare where the spectators should not stand — never behind or in front of the vehicle and never near the wire rope or snatch block. Your situation may have other "no people" zones.

**NOTICE**

Avoid overheating the winch motor. For extended winching, stop at reasonable intervals to allow the winch motor to cool down.



**Step 14: BEGIN WINCHING.** With the winching vehicle's engine on and light tension already on the wire rope, begin winching slowly and steadily. Be sure that the wire rope is winding evenly and tightly around the spooling drum. For additional assistance, the winched vehicle can be slowly driven while being pulled by the winch.

**Step 15: FOR VEHICLE RECOVERY,** continue pulling until the vehicle is on stable ground. If you are able to drive the vehicle, the winching operation is complete.

**Step 16: SECURE VEHICLE.** Once recovery of the vehicle is complete, be sure to secure the vehicle's brakes and put the Transmission in "park" (automatic) or "low" gear for (manual) transmissions. Release tension in the wire rope.

**What to look for under load**

The wire rope must always spool onto the drum as indicated by the drum rotation decal on the winch.

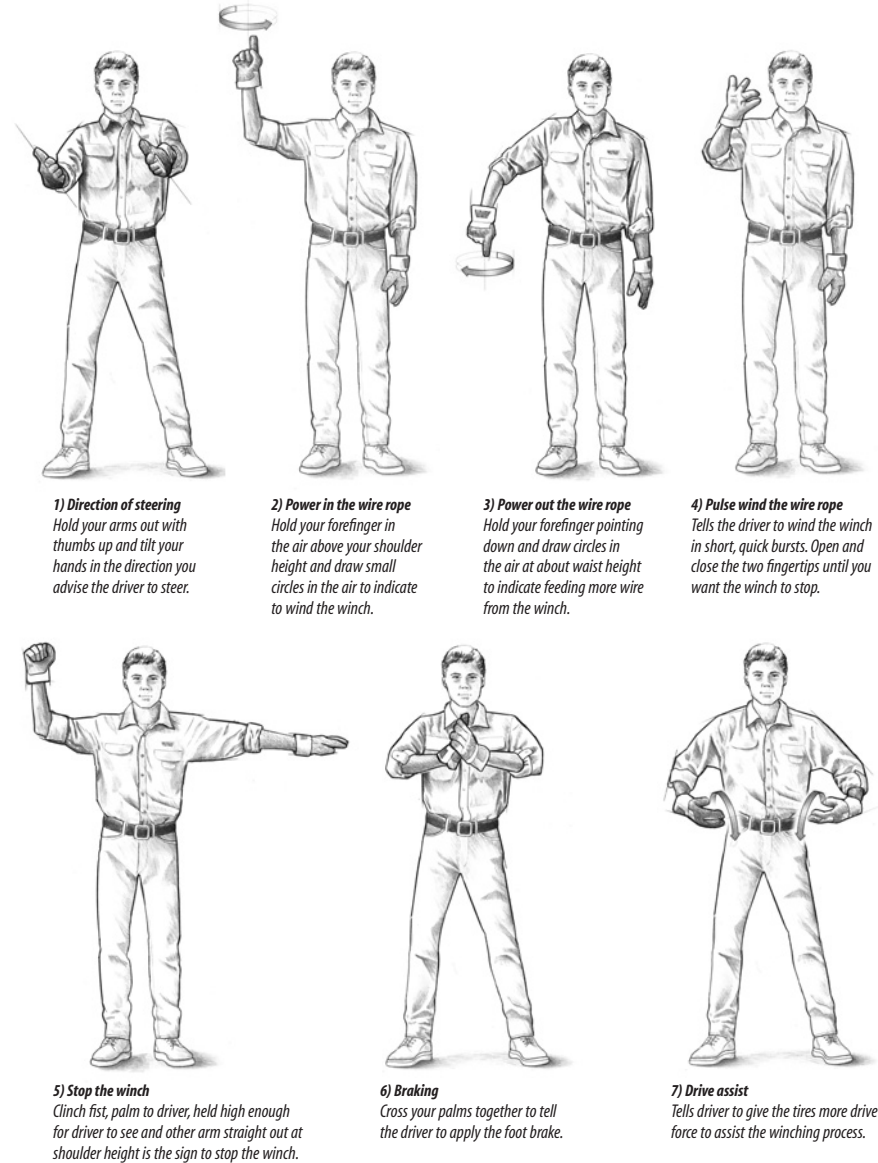
As you power in, make sure the wire rope winds evenly and tightly on the drum. This prevents the outer wire wraps from drawing into the inner wraps, binding and damaging the wire rope.

Avoid shock loads by using the control switch intermittently to take up wire rope slack. Shock loads can momentarily far exceed the winch and wire rope ratings.

During side pulls the wire rope tends to stack up at one end of the drum. This stack can become large enough to cause serious damage to the winch. So, line up pulls as straight ahead as possible and stop winching if the wire rope comes close to the tie rods or mounting plate. To fix an uneven stack, spool out that section of the rope and reposition it to the opposite end of the drum which will free up space for continued winching.

**Winching hand signals**

In some situations, recovery could involve two people. One drives and controls the winch, while the other provides navigation instructions and ensures the wire rope is winding properly. You and your helper must establish clear and precise hand signals and review so everyone clearly understands. It should also be understood that if the driver controlling the winch cannot see both hands of the assistant, the winch should not be activated. Suggested signals:





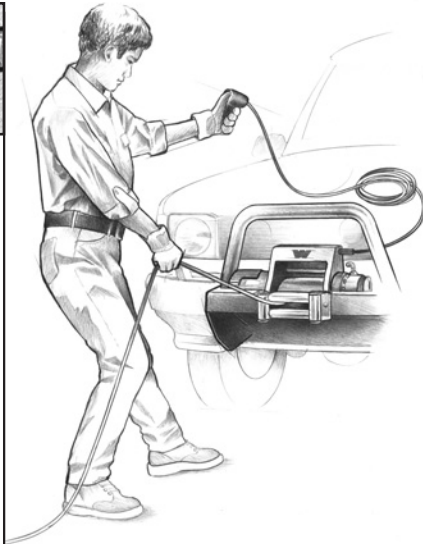
**How to spool under no load**

Arrange the remote control lead so it can not be caught in the winch. Arrange the wire rope so it will not kink or tangle when spooled. Be sure any wire rope already on the spooling drum is wound tightly and evenly layered. Tighten and straighten the layer if necessary. Keep the wire rope under light tension and spool the wire rope back onto the winch drum in even layers. Stop frequently to tighten and straighten the layers as necessary. Repeat this process until the winch hook is the same distance as the full length of the remote control from the winch. Pinch the hook between your thumb and forefinger and attach the hook strap. Hold the hook strap between the thumb and forefinger to keep tension on the wire rope. Walk the wire rope towards the fairlead, carefully spooling in the remaining wire rope by pulsing the remote control switch. Store the hook at the fairlead or tensioned to a suitable location to the side.

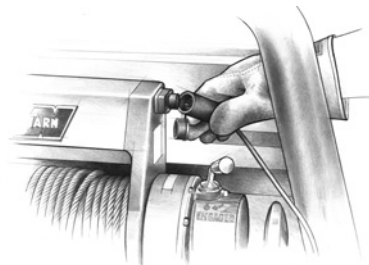
If you do not have the hook strap, use a length of cord or something similar. To prevent serious injury, NEVER put your fingers inside the hook area as you are powering in.

**WARNING**

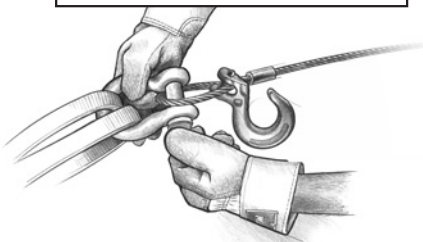
Always keep hands and clothing clear of the wire rope, hook and fairlead opening during operation and when spooling.



**Step 18: REWIND WIRE ROPE.** The person handling the wire rope should walk the rope in and not let it slide through the hand and control the winch at all times.



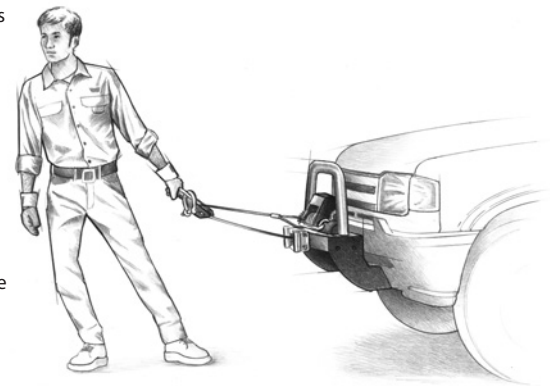
**Step 19: DISCONNECT REMOTE CONTROL.** Disconnect the remote control cord from the control box and store in a clean and dry place. Winching operations are now complete. Put the cap on the solenoid plug in.



**Step 17: DISCONNECT WIRE ROPE.** Disconnect from the anchor.

**RIGGING TECHNIQUES**

Various winching situations will require application of other winching techniques. These could range from too little distance to achieve maximum pull using straight line rigging, simply increasing pulling power, or maintaining a straight-line pulling situation. You will have to assess what technique is correct for your situation. Think "safety" at all times.



**How to change the pulling direction**

All winching operations should have a straight line from the winch to the object being pulled. This minimizes the wire rope collecting on one side of the drum affecting pulling efficiency and damaging wire rope. A snatch block, secured to a point directly in front of the

vehicle, will enable you to change your pulling direction while still allowing the wire rope to be at 90° to wind properly onto the spooling drum.



**Increasing pulling power**

In some cases, you may find yourself needing more pulling power. The use of snatch blocks increases mechanical advantage and that increases your pulling power:

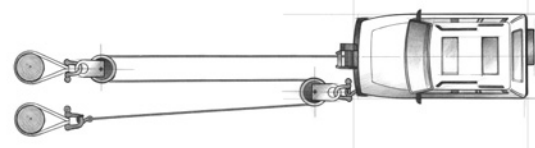
Single line



Double line



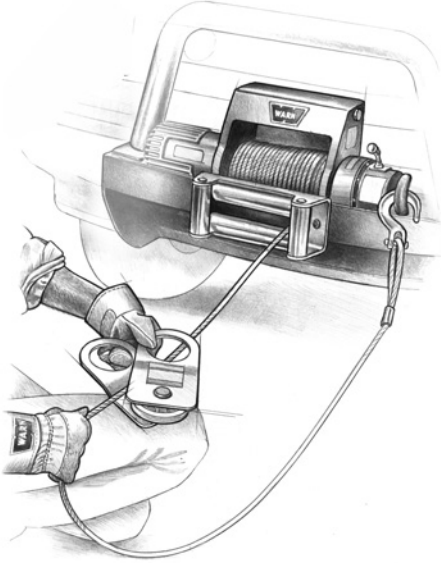
Triple line



### Double line

Because pulling power decreases with the number of layers of wire rope on the winch drum, you can use a snatch block to double line out more wire rope. This decreases the number of layers of wire rope on the drum, and increases pulling power.

Start by feeding out enough wire rope to free the winch hook. Attach the hook to your vehicle's frame/tow hook and run the wire rope through a snatch block.



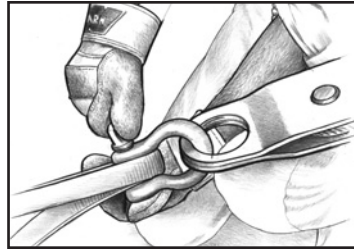
Disengage the clutch and, using the snatch block, pull out enough wire to reach your anchor point. Do not attach hook to mounting kit.

Secure to the anchor point with a tree trunk protector or choker chain. Attach the clevis/shackle. Attach the shackle to the two ends of the strap/chain, being careful not to over tighten (tighten and back-off 1/2 turn).

### Triple Line

Use the same techniques as the Double Line. Select a robust mounting location on your vehicle for the snatch block and the screw-pin shackle. Keep a 90° angle between the winch and run the wire rope to the first anchor-point and through the snatch block. Secure rope back to the vehicle. Put the wire rope through the snatch block and secure with the screw-pin shackle on the vehicle as close to the winch as practical. Now run the wire rope to the final anchor point

Secure to the anchor point with a tree trunk protector or choker chain. Attach the clevis/shackle. Attach the shackle to the two ends of the strap/chain, being



careful not to over tighten (tighten and back-off 1/2 turn).

Secure the winch hook. While keeping the line near the ground, insert the winch hook through the screw-pin shackle. Check your anchor. Make sure all connections are secured and free of debris before continuing with the winching procedure.

## MAINTENANCE

- Inspect the wire rope before and after each winching operation. If the wire rope has become kinked or frayed, the wire rope needs to be replaced. Be sure to also inspect the winch hook and hook pin for signs of wear or damage. Replace if necessary.
- Keep winch, wire rope, and switch control free from contaminants. Use a clean rag or towel to remove any dirt and debris. If necessary, unwind winch completely (leaving a minimum of 5 wraps on spooling drum), wipe clean, and rewind properly before storage. Using a light oil on the wire rope and winch hook can keep rust and corrosion from forming.
- Operating your winch for a long period of time places an extra burden on your vehicle's battery. Be sure to check and maintain your battery and battery cables according to manufacturer guidelines. Also inspect switch control and all electrical connections to be certain they are clean and tight fitting.
- Inspect the remote control for damage, if so equipped. Be sure to cap the remote socket to prevent dirt and debris from entering the connections. Store remote control in a protected, clean, dry area.
- No lubrication is required for the life of the winch.

## THE FINAL ANALYSIS

The basic guide to proper winching techniques cannot cover all the possible situations in which you may need to use a winch. In the final analysis, the decisions you make will determine the final outcome. So think through each situation and each step of use. Always be mindful of your own safety and the safety of others. Pay attention and you'll have fun.