

FAQ (downloaded from the Bluewater website May 2010)

1. How do I wash my rope?

Mild soap and cool to lukewarm water. A bathtub or large pail works well to allow complete submersion. Place rope in soapy water and agitate to remove dirt particles. Rinse well in several baths of clean water. It is extremely important to remove all soap residue. Leftover soap residue will attract dirt like a magnet. After rinsing loosely coil your rope and air dry in the shade. A good soap to use is a product from McNett by the name of Revivex Climbing Rope Cleaner concentrate.

<http://mcnett.baron-co.com/page.cfm?pageID=3568>

2. Is UV degradation an issue?

Yes, UV rays are indeed detrimental to synthetic fibres. Rope should be kept in a rope bag when not in use. It protects the rope from UV degradation but also protects the rope from dirt and other possible contaminants. Keep in mind that modern synthetic fibres are packed with UV inhibitors to better protect their integrity. Years ago UV inhibitors were either absent or not as evolved as what raw material chemists have devised now. If you can scratch through the sheath material with your fingernail it is most definitely time to retire the rope. Typically ropes are retired for wear issue long before UV degradation is an issue. Remember- store your ropes in the shade when not in use. Get a rope bag for storage.

**3. What is the beta on marking pens?**

**Marking pens are fine to use on ropes as long as they are water based laundry markers. Years ago solvent based markers were the norm. Some of the solvents used in these old pens could reduce the strength of the sheath strands marked. These days most pens are water based so this is not as much of an issue as in years passed. We recommend a Sharpie "rub a dub" laundry marking pen.**

4. Why does BlueWater not use factory middle marks on dynamic ropes?

Factory middle marks are ok until one end of the rope gets chopped off. Then the factory mark is no longer in the middle. Hmmm- look at the back of any telephone book here in the great Nation of America. If an end user gets hurt because their mark is no longer in the middle what would one expect to happen? We prefer the end user to make all marks so they are intimately familiar with which of the marks on their rope is the correct centre mark. This can be accomplished by different styles of marking using a series of bands so the correct mark can be identified. A unique marking also helps to better identify ownership on your rope as well as the rest of your gear!

5. How long will my rope last?

The answer to this is the same for a new car. You can total it right off the lot or you can get years of service from it. It all depends upon the user. Our recommendation is 5 years max for dynamic ropes and 10 years max for low elongation/ static ropes.

#### 6. What is HUBZone Certified?

HUB zone certified means BlueWater is manufacturing in a historically underutilized business zone and has in excess of 35% of its employees who also live in the zone. We are proud of the fact that we have and continue to reach out to the community through this program. BlueWater Ropes HUBZone certification number 31000.

#### 7. What is the difference between "static" and "low elongation" in ropes?

According to the Cordage Institute Standard CI 1801: A "Static" rope has a maximum elongation of 6% at 10% of its minimum breaking strength. A "Low Elongation" rope has greater than 6% but less than 10% elongation at 10% of its minimum breaking strength.