

About Manila Rope

Important things to know about Manila Rope

As a natural material, traditional Manila rope will expand in thickness when it becomes wet, this will then cause the length to shrink. This is important when measuring your rope length as it could have an impact on how you set your posts or place your fittings. The main shrinkage occurs the first time the rope gets wet and so for this reason we recommend that you add 10% to your required length.

If you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact us and one of our staff will be happy to talk with you about your requirements.

Shrinkage and pre-soaking

Like most natural ropes, Manila rope shrinks the most the first time it gets wet so it is advisable to pre-soak the rope in a large bucket or bin of cold water prior to use. Depending on the diameter of the rope the drying times will vary, for a thicker 36mm diameter rope this can take several weeks to fully dry depending on the temperature it is drying in.

You do not have to wait for the natural rope to dry in order to use it. Many people will soak the rope and then finish their garden project the same day. Manila rope will be thicker and stiffer when wet so allowances need to be made for this when cutting holes in posts and measuring distances between posts.

You do not need to soak the rope first if you do not wish to, just leave plenty of sag between each post for decking areas to allow for shrinkage.

Caring for your Manila rope

- To preserve Manila ropes natural quality and strength steps can be taken to ensure you get the best out of your natural rope. Coating your rope in petroleum jelly or a waterproofing agent will help to protect it from the rain.
- Avoid dragging your natural Manila rope through dirt or pulling it over sharp edges. If grit or dirt gets between the fibres it can cut them which will reduce its strength.
- Before exposing Manila rope to rain or dampness, slacken taut lines to avoid fibre breakage or the moving of fixed posts.
- If your Manila rope freezes in the winter wait for it to fully thaw before trying to move or re-arrange it.

Common uses for Manila Rope

- Decking posts and Manila rope fencing
- Rope garden handrails and decking balustrades
- Rope lawn edging
- Rose swags or Clematis Support
- Rope stair handrails
- Traditional rope boat fender lines
- Agriculture functions
- Nautical applications and traditional rigging
- Manila rope decorations and exercise ropes
- Obstacle course climbing systems
- Tug of War
- Rope swings and climbing
- Gymnasiums and Circus
- Stage rigging
- Shop displays and craft projects
- Pet toys or cat scratch pads
- Rope fishing nets
- Applications in forestry