



**FrenchCreek**  
**FALL SAFETY**  
Because your life is on the line

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Subject: Recommendations for Disinfecting your Equipment

Numerous parties have contacted FrenchCreek asking for advice on how to disinfect equipment to prevent the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. We have sought instruction from our vendors, the webbing mills, and the fiber manufacturers.

Recently there have been a few suggestions for disinfecting equipment using several different methods. Most of these methods involve chemicals, alcohol solutions, and disinfecting agents. There is some anecdotal testing using some of these methods to disinfect the equipment. However, there has not been any data collected on the long-term effects of using chemicals or disinfecting agents on webbing/fibers, protective coatings. There can be a possibility of loss of strength, abrasion resistance, and resistance to environmental conditions. Some additional methods that have been mentioned are steam cleaning, UV light, and others. Each of these treatments presents its own problems that can alter the equipment's characteristics. In none of these methods, has there been any data collected on the long-term effects on the webbing/fibers of the equipment. Possible proposed solutions have not been scientifically tested, nor studied in a controlled environment that could produce any analysis that can be effectively put into common practice.

It is FrenchCreek's recommendation that users continue with the established protocol for cleaning equipment.

The only cleaning products recommended are the use of water and soap or a mild dish soap. Do not use bleach, cleaning chemicals or disinfectants.

The equipment should be washed with a diluted solution of soap and water. Do not use aggressive cleaning tools. Ensure the entire surface of the equipment has been applied with the solution. A soft sponge or rag may be used lightly to rub the equipment.

The equipment should be thoroughly rinsed. Run clean water over the equipment to remove any foreign substances and residual soap. Do not use a pressure sprayer of any type.

The equipment should be dried by hanging in a cool, dry shaded area with ventilation. Avoid direct sunlight or baking the equipment in the sun.

Following these procedures is consistent with long standing practices in the care and maintenance of these types of soft goods. It is always the responsibility of the user for proper inspection, care and use of the equipment.