

Rope & its uses

Two questions for any rope: how much does it stretch, and does it float? Match the rope to the job and it lasts and behaves.

Fibre	Stretch	Floats?	Use it for
Polyester (Terylene)	Low	No	Sheets and halyards — low stretch holds sail shape
Nylon (polyamide)	High	No	Anchor warps & mooring lines — stretch absorbs snatch loads
Polypropylene	Medium	Yes	Throwing & rescue lines (it floats); UV-weak, little else
Dyneema / HMPE	Almost none	Yes	Halyards, strops, racing — stronger than steel for its weight
Three-strand vs braid	—	—	Three-strand is cheap & splices easily; braid runs sweetly through blocks

Whip or heat-seal every cut end. Mind chafe at fairleads and the bow roller — chafe is what kills mooring and anchor lines.