



For guidance on managing construction health risks go to [www.hse.gov.uk/construction](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction)



## CHAIN BLOCKS

1. Check your chain blocks and attachments. If anything is found damaged, do not use the chain blocks – contact the hire company.
2. Do not exceed the Safe Working Load (SWL) marked on the chain blocks.
3. Test the equipment before use with no load on. Make sure the feed chain runs freely and the ratchet safety device is working.
4. Do not use chain blocks to pull horizontally, they must only be used vertically.
5. Always use the correct rope, wire or chain sling to securely fix the load to the hook.
6. Check if you will need slings for your loads: you must not use the load chain as a sling.
7. Always keep your load as close to the ground as possible.
8. Do not allow anyone to walk under a load when you are lifting.
9. Do not walk under or near chain blocks that are not in use.
10. Make sure that you understand how the chain blocks work before you start to use them.

## USING THE CHAIN BLOCKS

1. Wear your safety helmet and gloves.
2. Check that the chain blocks are secure.
3. If working in windy conditions do not lift anything that maybe blown about like a sail.
4. Make sure that each load is secure.
5. Do not use the load chain as a sling. Do not wrap it round the load.
6. Do not allow anyone to stand under a load.
7. Do not leave a load unattended while it is off the ground.
8. Do not leave a load suspended needlessly. Lift it or lower it and off load it.
9. When lifting or lowering a load use a smooth action to minimise dangerous vertical or sideways movement of the load.
10. Do not allow loads to spin while lifting or lowering. You could damage the equipment.
11. Keep hands clear while lifting or lowering they could become trapped between the load and any projecting fixture.
12. If the chain blocks are to remain in position when unattended, for example overnight, then you should make them secure to prevent tampering or unauthorised use.
13. If you leave the chain blocks in positioning overnight, inspect them for safety and damage each day before using them.
14. If the chain blocks are to remain in position for long periods, they should be thoroughly inspected for safety and damage by a competent person at least once a week.
15. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

**Keep this leaflet in a safe place until work is finished as it may need to be referred to again.**



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Safety Guidance

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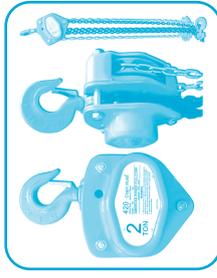


# Chain Blocks

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

## It is important to read this entire leaflet and any others issued before you use the Chain Blocks

1. Plan the use of the Chain Blocks so that they can always be used safely.
2. Lifting any load is hazardous. Make sure you always work safely.
3. You must not use chain blocks to lift people.
4. Chain blocks are designed for lifting heavy objects, within their safe working load (SWL).
5. The action of these chain blocks can cause injury or damage if not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used chain blocks before, familiarise yourself with the equipment before you start work.
7. You will need as a minimum the following items of personal protective equipment: helmet – EN397 or BS5240; gloves.
8. These chain blocks must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. Chain blocks are designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using them.



## WORK AREA

1. Make sure that your work area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
2. Protect other people from danger. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
3. Make sure that the overhead support to which you fasten the blocks is strong enough to support the weight of the blocks and the load.
4. Make sure the support beam is high enough but not too high for the chain blocks you are using and the job you are doing.
5. Take care when lifting the chain blocks into position ready for use. Get some assistance: you cannot do it alone.
6. Make sure that you fasten the chain blocks to the beam securely, bearing in mind the weight they will have to support.

## OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use these chain blocks. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. You must wear a helmet (EN397 or BS5240) when you are working with chain blocks.
3. Wear gloves.
4. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

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