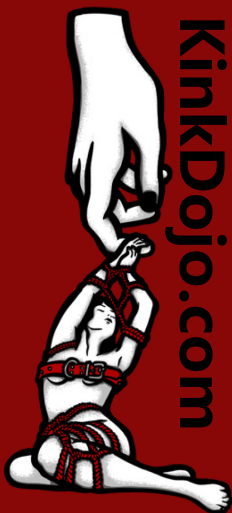


GUIDE TO Rope Treatment



Treating your natural fiber rope, such as Jute or Hemp rope, makes it feel a lot softer and makes it more durable. Softer rope feels better on the skin and is easier to create frictions/knots with when tying. Improved durability can lengthen its life, preventing the fibers that make up the rope from becoming brittle and breaking. Taking the time to treat your rope is worth it for most people. There are lots of ways to treat rope, we talk through the common processes used in treatment.

Basic equipment needed:

- Hank of natural fiber rope
- Climbing carabiner
- Access to a gas flame (e.g. butane camping stove, or other gas)
- Several clean white cloths
- Oil (e.g. jojoba oil, or camelia oil, or mineral oil)

Step 1: Boil the rope (optional)

Bring a large pot of water to a gentle boil. Fully submerge the rope under the water and allow it to boil for about 5 minutes, some people boil for up to 30 minutes. The boiling process loosens the fibers in the rope. Remove the rope from the pot and remove excess water from the rope with a towel.

The rope must be dried under tension or the strands making up the rope could dry unevenly and the rope will be ruined. Wrap the rope firmly around some kind of frame, like the legs of a table. Allow to completely dry before continuing.

You can choose to dye the rope during the boiling. You can add fabric dye intended for natural fibers to the water. Follow the instructions on the dye for best results. You must still dry under tension. If the rope is already colored there is no need to boil the rope, it has already been boiled previously during its original dyeing process.

Boiled rope tends to swell in size even after drying, typically adding about 1mm in diameter. The choice to boil or not is up to you, with many people preferring either boiled or non-boiled rope.

Some people will boil rope if it has been used during intimate rope bondage. Note that boiling is no guarantee of sanitization of the rope, and it is usually best to have specific rope set aside for specific individuals for intimate play to prevent the transmission of disease. This type of rope is 'fluid bonded' to a particular person.

Step 2: Fluff the rope

Fluffing involves using friction to raise up any loose strands in the rope, these loose strands are often called 'fluff'. You fluff the rope by passing one end of it through a carabiner (or similarly shaped object) and adding a twist to the rope just below the carabiner so that there is rope on rope contact (to create friction). You must attach the carabiner to a strong fixed object (perhaps using a sling) e.g., tree, pole, handrail. You then run the rope back and forward firmly through the carabiner. See the image.



Your arms will only reach so far when moving the rope back and forth, so you can only do about a one meter section of rope at a time. Typically, each section of rope is run back and forth 3 to 10 times depending on the rope condition. Fewer times if the rope is in good condition, more if it is in worse condition.

Use caution when fluffing the rope. Lots of small fibers will be released from the rope that can be an irritant to breathing and create a mess. It is best to do this step outside.

Step 3: Singe the fluff

Now that the fluff has been raised on the rope from the prior step, in this step you singe the fluff off the rope. Pass the rope briefly through a gas flame from one end of the rope to the other. The rope itself should not be burnt during this process, just the rope fluff. It is recommended you try this with a sample piece of rope first as the intensity of the flame determines how far from the center of the flame you hold the rope, and how quickly you pass it through the flame. Excess singeing will damage the rope itself.

A gas flame is recommended as other types of flame, such as a candle, can put soot onto the rope that discolors it. The rope can then transfer soot onto a person's skin when it is later used in bondage.

Step 4: Clean the rope

There will be some very light soot on the rope from singeing the fluff. This needs to be cleaned off the rope so that it retains its naturally bright color. Pass the rope through a clean (white) cloth from one end to the other. Then pass the rope through another clean cloth the other way. The rope will never be totally free from soot, but the majority of it should be removed at this stage.

Step 5: Oil the rope

All natural fiber rope has oil added to it during its manufacturing to help the fibers in the rope bind together. The treatment process so far will have removed some of that oil, so it needs to be put back into the rope. Without oil the rope loses strength and will become brittle.

Get a clean (white) cloth. Put a small amount of oil onto the cloth, typically just enough so that when it naturally spreads out onto the cloth it will have a diameter of about 2-3cm (1 inch). Holding the cloth in one hand, grip the rope in the cloth and pull it all the way through so that the oil rubs onto the rope. If the oil is almost gone from the cloth add some more to the cloth. Next, pass the rope the other way through the cloth, that is, starting from the other end of the rope. If the oil is almost gone from then cloth add some more again now. Fold the rope in half (double it over) and pass the rope again through the cloth starting from the middle of the rope to the ends. The oil should now be applied to the rope relatively evenly.

It is better to put too little oil on the rope initially, and have to add more, than put too much on. You cannot get oil out of the rope without boiling it and starting this process again, which will damage the rope. Excess oil makes the rope unpleasantly sticky to the touch.

The oil you use is important. Normal cooking oil will go rancid eventually, destroying the rope. Common oils used that are either less prone to going rancid or won't go rancid are; jojoba, camelia and mineral oil. People will often try each for the one that is most pleasant to the touch and smells the best to them. People are also known to add essential oils to the rope treatment oil so their rope will have an appealing aroma. Keep peoples' allergies in mind when choosing oil.

Step 6: Wax or butter the rope (optional)

Soy or beeswax is very lightly applied to the rope to give it a smoother feel. A piece of wax is held in the hand and the rope is passed through the hand transferring wax onto the rope. Do not squeeze the rope onto the wax as that will transfer too much making the rope sticky. To help the wax better seep into the fibers many people will then put the rope into the microwave for 30 seconds to melt the wax in. Waxing the rope is more about the feel of the rope than the preservation of the rope, so some people don't use wax.

'Butter' is a blend of wax and oil that is sometimes custom made by some people to specifically meet their own preferences for rope feel. Butter can be purchased at some specialist rope bondage venues, and many venues have their own custom blend. Some combination of soy and jojoba tends to be common. Butter is used instead of wax in most cases and is applied in very small quantities in a similar fashion to oil.

Step 7: Resting the rope

The treatment process disturbs the fibers of the rope, which can lead to minor distortions in the lay of the fibers. It is common to 'rest' the rope after treatment to allow the fibers to relax into straight lines. Resting typically involves hanging the rope, so the tension generated under gravity aligns the fibers. Rope may be rested for a few days to a week before use. During the resting process it is important to occasionally change the position of the rope on its hanger, as any bends where the rope passes over the hanger can become fixed into the rope. Moving the rope around on the hanger periodically ensures that all parts of the rope are rested and end up relatively straight. If you cannot hang the ropes then gather them into a very loose spool during the resting period, do not hank them. You want the fibers in the rope to be relaxed.

How often should I treat my rope?

There is no perfect answer to this. All rope will eventually start to lose its oils when used in tying, as it is transferred to the body of the person being tied. Treatment will be needed to return those oils. You can usually tell a rope needs re-treatment when it starts to feel slightly dry or brittle or fluffy. As a general guide, re-treatment is needed about every 10 to 15 times you use a rope for a body tie.

One strand in the rope has become uneven?

When the strands in the rope become uneven, it means that the tensions on those strands have 'slipped'. One of the strands is looser than the others. This can happen with any natural fiber. It may be due to a manufacturing defect or an error during treatment, but also the tensions on the strands will naturally move over time. There are ways to re-tension a rope, usually this involves undoing the knots at one end of the rope and doing sequences of twisting motions on the rope. This can be very hard to get right, so we personally tend to discard 'slipped' rope and get new rope at this stage.

Is this the best way to treat rope?

There are lots of opinions about how to easily and safely treat rope. We have found no evidence of a 'correct' way to treat rope. The information we present here are norms that we are familiar with regarding rope treatment. They reflect our preferences and experience only.

Notes on synthetic rope

Synthetic ropes, such as POSH or Chromaknotz, do not need treatment. Only natural fiber ropes need to be treated. If you wish to clean synthetic rope it is best to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning. Generally, synthetic ropes can be washed in the household washing machine. Use a gentle cycle with cold water only. Hot/boiling water can melt the rope. Each rope should be put into a delicates bag so it doesn't get twisted up and damaged. The rope should never be tumble dried (it will melt), instead hang it up to dry as you would with clothing. Ensure it is completely dry before hanking it and putting it away.