
Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by michaeljspraggon - 03/26/2008 08:28am

Further to my recent account of climbing the Grand Fir, what is the best solvent to use for getting pitch off ropes :laugh:

If this topic has been covered before then if anyone could direct me to it, I'd be very grateful B)

Michael

Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by TreeTramp - 03/26/2008 09:56pm

I remember that Harv T at TC Colorado said that he uses alcohol wipes to remove pine sap. If you contact the rope manufacture they might suggest what to use. I have to think that you should not use anything that will take the dye out of the yarn. Just my two cents.

See you at the top,
Dan

Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by Tom Dunlap - 03/27/2008 01:55pm

Over the years I've heard several recommendations from reputable people. In no order...

Climb on the rope, the pitch will wear off.

Pine Sol soap

Any of the citrus cleaners

Veggie oil...peanut butter if you want something that is thicker and can be mooshed into the rope

Wash the rope in the machine or a bucket afterwards.

Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by michaeljspraggon - 03/29/2008 09:45am

Thanks for your help. I use alcohol to get pine sap off clothes. I don't think alcohol attacks polymers like nylon but I will contact the rope manufacturer just to make sure.

Peanut butter? How many jars would I need for 330ft of rope? :lol:

Michael

Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by Holden - 04/19/2008 03:53pm

I, also, had pretty good success with Peanut Butter. You don't need a lot, but it was fairly labor intensive.

Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by michaeljspraggon - 04/19/2008 06:59pm

Well you can't argue with a tried and tested method. Maybe New Tribe could develop a peanut-based pitch remover product? You heard it here first folks...

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Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by Tom Dunlap - 04/25/2008 12:35am

This topic came up on Treebuzz a couple of weeks ago and generated this comment:

I wouldn't put any of that crap on my rope in a million years!

That set me to investigating.

The nylon and polyester that our ropes are made from is the same resin that makes clothing. Does anyone even give it a second thought when some VO spatters on their shirt or pants? If VO were damaging there would be a LOT of kitchen staff with ratted-out clothing. Machine washing abrasion is probably harder on clothing than any VO.

During my investigations I talked with tech reps from two of the largest rope manufacturers about using VO on ropes. Both of them said that this had never been tested on ropes to see if VO degraded the ropes. Because of this neither could endorse the idea. Both said that it was hard to imagine any possible damage though. Especially if the VO scrub is followed up with a proper washing.

There are lots more harmful things that happen to ropes in their normal life. In the pro environment there are all sorts of oils and fumes around working ropes with seemingly no harmful results.

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Re:Getting pitch off ropes

Posted by endlessrider - 07/11/2008 01:19am

I have had fairly good luck using the rope, washing machine bag from sherrill.com, and the sap I had in my rope was bad!

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