

Steel vs. Woven Lashing: Which Is Safer and More Cost-Effective?

Why Yards Still Rely on Steel Banding

Across North America, lumber yards, steel mills, and industrial facilities have used **steel banding and chains** for decades. It's familiar, widely available, and often assumed to be the "strongest" option.

But as operations scale and safety standards tighten, many crews are discovering a major gap:

Steel banding slows down work, increases injury risk, and often costs more in the long run.

A growing number of companies are transitioning to **woven polyester lashing**—a safer, faster, and more cost-efficient alternative engineered for modern industrial environments.

The Safety Risks of Steel Banding

Steel strapping may be strong, but it comes with serious drawbacks that directly impact worker safety and day-to-day performance.

Major Safety Concerns with Steel Banding

- **Sharp edges** cause cuts, lacerations, and glove failures
- **Recoil snaps back** when cut, risking eye injuries and facial injuries
- **Heavy material weight** increases fatigue and strain
- **Corrosion** weakens steel over time, increasing break risk
- **Sparks during cutting** create hazards near flammable materials
- **Metal-on-metal friction** can damage product surfaces (steel, finished wood, machinery)

These hazards slow down crews, increase training requirements, and add avoidable OSHA risks to daily workflows.

Woven Lashing: A Modern, Safer Alternative

Woven lashing is built from **industrial polyester fibers** engineered for high tensile strength—without the hazards of steel.

Advantages of Woven Lashing Over Steel Banding

Safety

- No sharp edges
- Zero recoil when cut
- Corrosion-free
- No sparks
- Lightweight and easy to handle

Performance

- High tensile strength
- Strong under shock loads
- Won't damage product surfaces
- Flexible and gentle around edges

Efficiency

- Faster to install
- Less fatigue for crews
- Works with simple tensioning tools
- Easier to store, stage, load, and transport

4. Cost Comparison: Steel Banding vs. Woven Lashing

While steel banding may appear cheaper per foot, the **true cost** tells a different story.

Total Cost of Ownership Comparison

Cost Factor	Steel Banding	Woven Lashing
Material Cost	Low	Moderate
Labor Time	High (slow to apply/cut)	Low (fast tensioning)
Injury Risk	High	Near zero
Equipment Damage	Common	Rare
Replacement Frequency	High (corrosion, bending)	Low (durable fibers)
Worker Fatigue	High	Low

Where Woven Saves You More Money

- Fewer injuries + fewer workers' compensation claims
- Faster load prep = reduced labor hours
- No product damage from sharp metal edges
- Longer-lasting materials
- Lower PPE requirements

In many yards, switching to woven lashing cuts total securement cost by 20–40%.

Case Example: Yard Switching to BOSS Lash™

A Midwest lumber yard recently switched from steel banding to 1½" BOSS Lash™ for all unit loads.

Results Within 60 Days:

- **Load time reduced by 50%**
- **Zero recorded injuries** vs. 4 per year using steel
- **\$14,000 saved** in labor and damaged product
- **Improved worker satisfaction and training time**

“Switching to BOSS Lash™ cut our load time in half. Safer, faster, and 100% American-made.”
— Operations Manager, Midwest Yard

Why American-Made & Veteran-Owned Matters

When choosing a load-securement supplier, reliability, integrity, and consistency matter.

BOSS Lash™ provides:

American Manufacturing

- Faster lead times
- No import delays
- Higher material quality
- Real accountability

Veteran-Owned Leadership

- Precision
- Discipline
- Commitment to safety
- Mission-driven service

You're not just buying lashing—you're buying from people who understand risk, responsibility, and high-stakes work.

Steel banding had its place for decades, but modern industrial operations demand a safer, faster, and more efficient solution.

Woven lashing outperforms steel in every major category:

Safety

Speed

Cost efficiency

Worker performance

Product protection

Ready to upgrade your securement systems?