

## Bungee Cord - A Guide to the Uses & Construction

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[Bungee cord](#) is normally constructed of either solid rubber or a series of elasticated rubber fibres surrounded by a flexible sheath of woven cotton or polypropylene. A fixing, for example a hook end, is then applied to the end of the cord allowing it to be used as a retaining tool. As the cord stretches, its interior construction of elasticated fibres lengthens and builds tension, whilst the braided exterior tightens around the core. The idea behind shock cord is to tie objects down without the need for knots and the inevitable frustration that comes with trying to undo them.

Shock cords come in a variety of different diameters, and can be used for a myriad of different applications. When using bungee to secure a tarpaulin, care must be taken to ensure that the retaining force is spread evenly over the surface of the tarp. It's important to check the size of any eyelets that the tarpaulin may have. Some of the more reinforced eyelets tend to be smaller, so larger diameter elastic cord may not fit, especially if they have hook ends or fastenings attached.

Another common use is securing items to roof racks. Our QVS Shop 8mm bungee has a tensile strength (maximum capacity) of 86kg which means as long as your goods are fastened sensibly, it should stay secure for the duration of your journey. For added peace of mind, you may consider covering any items with a small but heavy duty tarpaulin.

You could also use bungee rope to secure groundsheets and awnings whilst camping or caravanning. Their elastic properties will prevent rain water collecting on loose sections of covering, whilst their design ensures that they are unaffected by torrential rain. As with all shock cord applications, relevant eye protection must be used to avoid injury.

In terms of the fixings that are available to you, the most common are hook ends. These usually comprise of a hook and collar, made of either plastic or metal. Metal hooks are strong, but can be expensive and difficult to fit. Whereas heavy duty plastic type hooks are cheap to buy, and very easy to fit and replace. Simply thread the cord through the collar and into the hook, pushing the collar up until it clicks into the base of the hook. Specially designed grab claws inside the hook will lock into the cords braided covering creating a strong hold. And as long as they are used sensibly, they should last as long as the more expensive metal hooks.

Other fixings that are available include;

- [Ball Bungees](#) – These consist of a loop of elastic cord, with a small plastic ball on the end. These are ideal for bundling together things like tent poles and kindling, or for tidying excess cables. They can also be used for attaching products with eyelets to scaffolding poles.
- [Shock Cord Ties](#) – These products consist of a length of elastic cord, with a small hook end, and a bar or toggle at the other. These work very much in a similar way to regular hook ends, however the toggle threads through the tarpaulins eyelet, offering a stronger hold than a regular hook end.



- [Hook Ties](#) – Ideal for securing a tarpaulin or eyeleted product to scaffolding, but can also be used to secure a tarpaulin used as a cover for a pick-up truck or trailer.

With all these fixings, it's important to purchase a product that is weather resistant, and from a reputable supplier.