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WINCH & RECOVERY



Be familiar with winch as well as other people you are riding with. A winch is a tool and not a toy so take safety precautions.

SAFETY YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1. Always Check Your Equipment Before You Use It
 - DO NOT use torn or frayed straps or lines.
 - If you are using or have used wire cable line for your winch line make sure to check your snatch block for any sharp metal pieces or fragments. If you go from a cable line to a synthetic line replace your snatch block. (Keep this in mind if you are giving your snatch block to someone else to use as well.) Any fragments from the wire line cutting into the snatch block can cut a synthetic line when used.
 - Be familiar with all your equipment and be comfortable using it before you head out on a trail
2. Watch Your Hands. Always use leather Winch Gloves that are loose fitting. You want the glove to be pulled off not your fingers if need be. Do not put your hands, fingers or extremities into or around the moving parts or motor of your Winch while it is on. Do not touch the line close to the fairlead (plate on the Jeep and front of the Winch where the line/cable runs into the winch) while the winch is on. Keep hands and fingers clear as the hook and line spool back into the fairlead.
3. Safety
 - Do not ever wrap line or cable around hands, arms or body parts.

- Always have the remote in sight of the person helping or yourself. Set the remote down or hold it out and away from you with no fingers near any of the buttons or controls while someone is touching the winch. If you are helping someone else, ask them to hold the remote up at your sight safely while you are touching the winch.
- If more than one person is helping with the recovery make sure you have established a solid communication and it is understood between those helping with the recovery.
- NEVER step over or straddle a winch cable. Once there is tension on the cable the line is considered in tension and you are to stay back in a safe place. NEVER touch a winch line once it is under load or tension.
- Make sure everyone is clear of the winch, line/cable and area before starting to winch your vehicle.
- Always use a Damper for your line no matter if it is cable or synthetic line it can still break and go “live”
- While you are winching keep an eye on your anchor point to notice any weakening.
- Do not ever let all of your line out! You must keep at least 5 tight wraps around the winch drum at all times. Any less and you could pull off the drum and unspool your entire winch line.
- Do not overload your winch. Know what weight capacity you have, remember for full weight strength you need to have as much line let out as possible. This depends on your rope/cable length as well as your winch and its capacity as to how much strength you lose per line of wrap on your winch. Just remember full strength is the most line out (always keeping your initial 5 tight wraps on the drum)
- Do not hook your winch line around any object except through your snatch block. Other than the snatch block your line should not be run through anything, around anything or hooked to anything but a D-ring and/or soft shackle. Never run your cable or line around an object (such as a tree) and then hook it back to itself.
- Be aware and careful of the winch line position at all times. This includes before, during and after recovery. As you start to get unstuck or gain traction make sure you are not on the gas to lurch forward and run over or tangle your winch line.
- Your care of your cable/line - Always neatly spool your winch line back in after a use. You want even and neat lines across the front of the winch. Be careful to have it evenly across your winch so it does not end up with more rope/cable on one side than the other. Check it for any damage, frays or weakened points as you spool it back in.
- Notice if your winch starts to struggle or is unable to move the vehicle. STOP and do not burn up your winch. You can come up with a new plan, add a snatch block, etc. but do not continue running your winch if it is unable to handle the weight or situation
- Do not rush when doing recovery or using your winch.

Get comfortable with your winch. Know what settings you have and go out and practice with your winch so you have hands on practice. The more you practice the more confident and comfortable you will become with your recovery and winch skills

Knowing how to safely recover your vehicle or someone else's is an important skill to have. Be confident in your ability to recover a vehicle with this overview.

What Recovery Equipment you need:

- Tow Strap
- Tree Saver Strap
- Snatch Block
- D-Ring and Soft Shackle
- Winch Gloves
- Line Damper or towel



We recommend getting a full recovery gear kit. Look for made in the USA for quality and tested strength of products.

Using Your Winch In A Recovery Overview:

When talking about recovery there are many different scenarios as well as ways to use your Recovery Equipment. We are going to focus on the most common practice/used way to use your winch in a Recovery for this Basic 101.

A Couple Things To Keep In Mind

- You are ultimately responsible for how you decide to do your recovery for your vehicle! If it is your winch and equipment you are using to get yourself out or someone else to you....you have the final ultimate say in how your Jeep is hooked up. Remember that even if you are in a high stress situation you need to feel comfortable and always check your own equipment/attachments.
- If you are doing your own recovery and outside of your vehicle. Make sure your vehicle is in park or turned off in gear and that your emergency break is on. Chalk a tire to keep your Jeep from moving for added safety if you need to. You want to be safe as you do your recovery.
- Before you head out down the trail put your winch remote and recovery gear in an easily accessible place.

Straight Line Recovery:



Hook Up your winch remote. You will either plug the cable directly into the winch or activate your wireless remote.



Spool out your winch cable. You can free spool your winch and pull the cable while you walk, or you can use the remote and let out while someone walks the cable to your tree.



Put your tree saver around the trunk low of the tree.

Open your D-ring or Soft Shackle.



Run your D-ring or soft shackle through both straps of your tree saver.

Depending on what type of hook you have on the front of your winch will determine which way you run this last step. We highly recommend upgrading your winch hook to a Factor 55 hook for added safety.

The photo on the left shows how you will turn the D-ring to allow the hook to attach to the front of the D-ring. The photo on the right shows the pin going through the Factor 55 hook to attach the Winch. Close your D-Ring and then turn it back 1/4-1/2 turn so it does not get stuck closed.



Put your vehicle in Neutral and allow the winch to do the work if possible. Slowly spool in your cable to move yourself and get you unstuck. This is not a race, there is no hurry think slow and steady.



Once you are freed you stop and let a little slack out of the cable/rope. Put your vehicle in park or turn off in gear. Now do everything backwards to unhook the winch hook and line.



Winch line in keeping tension on the rope or cable (use your gloves) and think about keeping a tight and uniform spool as you bring the cable or rope back in.

Also always slow down and go very slow at the end and keep your fingers away from the hook and Fairlead so you don't get a finger or your hand.

Doing a straight line recovery to another Vehicle as anchor instead of tree.



Your Steps are very similar to what we discussed for your overview. The change will be that you will not need a tree-saver strap. You will run your winch hook directly to the front or back of the vehicle that is the anchor and to the D-ring directly attached to them.

Safety Notes:

- Do not hook to a factory/plastic bumper when winching.
- Do not use a ball of a trailer hitch. You can use the receiver with a pin for the D-Ring or your winch hook but do not wrap around a ball on a hitch.
- You do not want to have to pull in reverse if possible. You want a forward gear if you need to get more resistance and traction. Or add another anchor Jeep to the Jeep Anchor so they do not have to pull in reverse and have traction.

Using A Snatch Block

This is where Physics comes into play. By adding a Snatch Block you are adding a ratio of weight distribution with a pulley system to require less weight of pull or force from the pulling object. Every time you add a snatch block you are changing the ratio of pull and force. This is going to put less strain on your winch and it can do a harder job with a snatch block. You can add and use snatch blocks together if you have a very stuck vehicle, say in mud or a heavy vehicle to ensure success.



You are going to follow the same steps as we covered and add a snatch block in.



Once your D-ring is through your strap you will now feed your winch cable through the snatch block.

Open the snatch block by twisting it to the side and run your cable through the pulley side.



Close your snatch block by twisting back and run the open end of the snatch block through the pin of the D-ring to secure it to the tree strap and anchor.



Pull your cable and hook back to your vehicle and secure to the front D-ring hook of your Jeep.

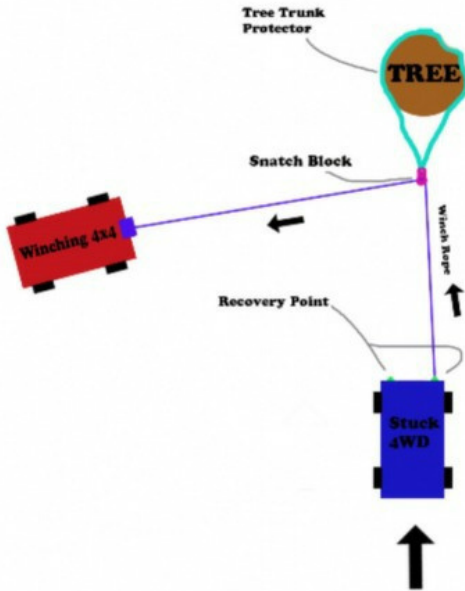


Continue recovery as outlined in straight line recovery. Once you are out then do all these steps backwards to unhook your winch and snatch block.

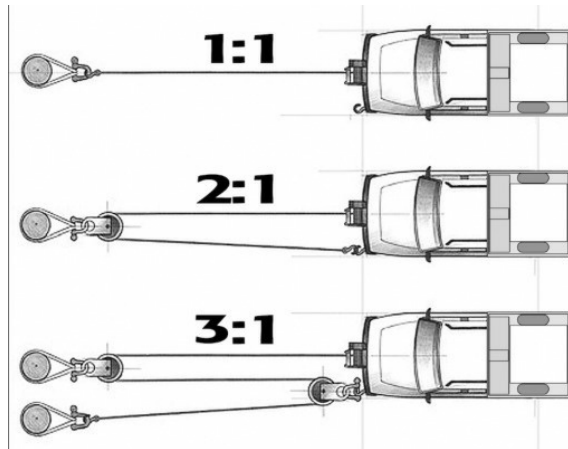
Recovery Options

If you need to do a recovery and there is not a straight line you need to use the snatch block to create the angle for your recovery.

Directional Pull: Recovering another 4x4



NOTE: You can use another Vehicle or a Tree for the anchor point on the recovery. So you would run the Winch Hook to the D-ring on the front or back of another vehicle or to another tree saver strap with a D-ring on your anchor tree.



The ratios of using multiple snatch blocks as outlined on the previous page. You can replace trees with another vehicle as well and use multiple positions if you have a heavy vehicle or are very stuck to ease the load on the winch or take pressure off the anchor vehicle as well.

One of the most important things to remember is that there is **NO RUSH** or **PRESSURE** when you are doing a recovery!!

Take your time and make sure you are comfortable with the way you are doing the recovery.