

Twine

By Steven Dykeman

Be safe
Have fun
Better yourself



Natural rope fibers make an excellent tinder to start fire from a coal or spark. Always carry some with you. Of course, it can be used for it's intended purpose which is cordage as well.



Take a bundle of twine like the one shown to the left in your pack to have handy for many purposes.

Natural rope fibers include:

1. Hemp
2. Jute
3. Sisal
4. Manila
5. Coir
6. Cotton

Hemp and jute are both excellent; Sisal is not bad. The others are less desirable.

This article is about fire starting, but twine is something you need to have anyway.

The many uses for a bundle of twine:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lashing | Belt |
| Hold up a tarp shelter | Hammock suspension |
| Traps and snares | Net |
| Improvised Fishing line | Snowshoes |
| Weapons | Tourniquet |
| Tie up a bandit | Bow drill string |
| Shoe/boot laces | Clothesline |
| Chair upholstery | Gun sling |
| Pet Leash | Tether gear to pack |
| Snake cleaner for hose or straw | Bundle firewood |
| Water bottle sling | String up a bear bag |
| Handle wrap | Tie your knife to a stick for a spear |
| Lanyard | Tie a splint |

Hemp

There is a lot of confusion about both Hemp and Jute. This is largely due to search engines of today's modern society. If you are a person selling Hemp Rope, you would include the word Jute as a search word so you would attract people looking for Jute rope. It is due to this that people get confused. They think they are the same. They are not. Hemp used for the making of rope is also not marijuana. Below is a picture of Hemp.



Hemp is a variety of the *Cannabis sativa* plant species that is grown specifically for industrial uses. It is one of the fastest growing plants and was one of the first plants to be spun into usable fiber 50,000 years ago. It can be refined into a variety of commercial items, including paper, textiles, and rope.

Usable fibers are harvested from the stem's bast fiber (inner bark)

Below is a picture of highly effective tinder made by separating the individual strands from a small length of Hemp twine and shaping it to resemble a

cotton ball. I use a cotton ball as a standard for all tinder because it is the most ideal example of how tinder should be: Fine fibers arranged in an airy ball like structure.



About the author:

Steve Dykeman is an experienced outdoorsman and survivalist. He has written many articles and produced many videos on subjects relating to outdoors and survival. He has been a course director and instructor to both youth and adults. He has also been a technical consultant to manufacturing companies relating to outdoor gear. He has over 40 years of experience working with space and defense related electronics. He brings his advanced technical abilities to the outdoors, exposing the many myths and fallacies.

In recent days he is educating people to survive into our uncertain future.

