

Material Defect Identification

Why traditional rubber fails, and why heavy-duty steel is the standard.

Wheel restraints are the last line of defense against catastrophic trailer creep. Relying on degraded materials is a direct violation of safety protocols. Use this guide to identify when rubber chocks have failed and why transitioning to all-steel Ergo Wheel Chocks eliminates replacement cycles.

The Hazard: Rubber Chocks

Rubber is highly susceptible to environmental and mechanical degradation. Inspect daily and discard immediately if you spot:

- **Dry Rot & UV Damage:** Look for deep cracks or a grayish, powdery surface. Sunlight breaks down rubber polymers, drastically reducing its grip on concrete.
- **Compression Set:** When heavy rigs rest on rubber, it eventually flattens out and loses its wedge shape, failing to stop forward momentum.
- **Torn Edges:** Missing chunks of rubber mean the chock can no longer form a flush seal against the tire tread.
- **Weight & Friction Lock:** Healthy rubber creates so much friction it often becomes pinned under the tire, forcing workers to aggressively pry it loose, causing back injuries.

The Standard: Steel Ergo Chocks

Ergo Wheel Chocks are engineered from solid steel to outlast the harsh conditions of a commercial dock.

- **Zero Compression:** Steel maintains its structural integrity and wedge profile permanently, regardless of the weight bearing down on it.
- **Weather Immunity:** Unaffected by UV rays, freezing temperatures, or prolonged moisture. It does not crack or dry rot.
- **Aggressive Ground Grip:** Engineered steel teeth bite into pavement and ice securely, stopping trailer creep more effectively than smooth, worn rubber.
- **Ergonomic Release:** Because the steel wedge is rigid and attached to a leverage handle, it releases easily from under tires without the friction-lock that plagues rubber.

Discard any rubber chock showing signs of cracking, rounding, or missing material immediately. Replace with steel ergonomic restraints to maintain OSHA compliance.