

8 Benefits of Using Chain Slings Over Wire Rope Slings



If you work in construction, oil & gas, manufacturing, or heavy logistics anywhere in the UAE, you already know that choosing the right lifting equipment isn't just a matter of preference—it's a matter of safety, compliance, and operational efficiency. One question that keeps coming up on job sites from Dubai to Abu Dhabi is: **chain sling or wire rope sling?**

Both have their place, but in many demanding applications, chain slings consistently come out on top. In this post, we break down the **8 key benefits of using chain slings over wire rope slings**—and explain why leading industry suppliers like **Apex Lifting** continue to champion them for heavy-duty lifting tasks across the region.

1. Superior Strength-to-Weight Ratio

Chain slings offer an impressive working load limit (WLL) relative to their size. High-grade alloy steel chains—typically Grade 80 or Grade 100 — can handle extreme loads without adding unnecessary bulk to your rigging setup. Grade 100 chain slings, for example, provide up to **25% more capacity** than equivalent Grade 80 configurations, making them ideal for the large-scale infrastructure projects that define the UAE's booming construction landscape.

2. Outstanding Durability in Harsh Environments

The UAE's climate is no joke—extreme heat, humidity near coastal areas, and sand abrasion can degrade equipment fast. Chain slings are built to withstand these conditions far better than wire rope slings, which are prone to corrosion, fraying, and internal wire fatigue that's often invisible to the naked eye. A well-maintained chain sling from **Apex Lifting** can last for years, even in the most punishing environments.

3. Easy Visual Inspection

One of the most underrated advantages of a [chain sling](#) is how easy it is to inspect. With wire rope, damage often hides deep within the strands—you may not spot a problem until it's too late. Chain links, on the other hand, show wear, stretching, nicks, and deformation clearly and immediately. This makes routine safety checks faster, more reliable, and fully compliant with UAE occupational health and safety standards.

4. Adjustable Leg Lengths for Versatility

Unlike wire rope slings, chain slings can be quickly adjusted using shortening clutches or hooks to change the effective working length. This flexibility allows riggers to fine-tune the sling configuration for different load shapes and lift angles—without needing a completely different sling. On busy UAE job sites where time is money, this adaptability is a major operational advantage.

5. Heat Resistance

Wire rope slings begin to lose capacity at relatively moderate temperatures. Chain slings made from alloy steel, however, can perform at elevated temperatures—Grade 80 chains are rated for use up to **400°C** without a reduction in WLL. This makes them the preferred choice for foundries, steel fabrication facilities, and petrochemical plants—industries that are a significant part of the UAE's industrial economy.

6. Longer Service Life = Lower Total Cost of Ownership

Yes, chain slings may carry a higher upfront cost than wire rope alternatives. But when you factor in their resistance to environmental damage, ease of inspection, repairability (individual links can be replaced), and overall longevity, chain slings deliver a **significantly lower total cost of ownership** over time. For businesses operating at scale in the UAE, that's a compelling financial argument.

7. No Risk of Bird-Caging or Kinking

Wire rope slings are vulnerable to birdcaging (where the outer strands separate from the core) and kinking—both of which can catastrophically reduce the sling's rated capacity. Chain slings don't suffer from either of these failure modes. They maintain their structural integrity under load, even when subjected to side pulls or angular lifts, giving operators greater confidence and peace of mind.

8. Compliance with International Standards

Reputable chain slings are manufactured and tested to internationally recognized standards such as **EN 818** (European standard) and **ASME B30.9** (American standard), which are widely referenced in UAE lifting regulations and project specifications. When you source certified chain slings through a trusted supplier like **Apex Lifting**, you're not just buying equipment—you're buying compliance, documentation, and traceability that protects your team and your project.

The Bottom Line

Whether you're lifting prefabricated structural components on a high-rise in Downtown Dubai, moving heavy equipment at a refinery in Ruwais, or handling steel at a fabrication yard in Jebel Ali, a quality chain sling gives you the strength, durability, and safety assurance that wire rope simply can't always match.

Apex Lifting offers a comprehensive range of Grade 80 and Grade 100 chain slings, components, and accessories, all fully certified and ready for UAE job site conditions.