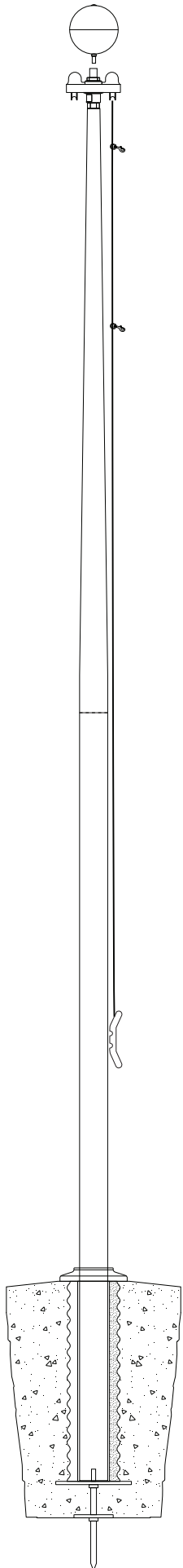


# Maintenance Instructions - External Halyard



## ALUMINUM FLAGPOLE MAINTENANCE- External Halyard

Just as with any operable equipment, flagpoles must be properly cared for if they are to perform satisfactorily over a period of years. The maintenance of modern flagpoles consists principally of preserving the finish of the pole shaft, replacing the halyards if and when necessary, and properly caring for and perhaps replacing, certain fittings that is subject to wear.

Aluminum poles have a mechanical finish and little or no maintenance will normally be required because rainfall in most areas will remove the dirt build-up and soil that may be deposited on the surface. However, should build-up of dirt and soil occur, *washing the surface with a mild detergent is advised*. If the surface appearance becomes objectionably discolored by contaminants, the finish may be restored by the use of special cleaning agents.

## HALYARDS

Conventional external halyards should be checked every three months for signs of wear and need for replacement. The cost of replacement can be minimized if they are replaced when wear becomes first apparent, *before* a break occurs. This can be accomplished without climbing the pole. Simply butt the end of the new rope to one end of the old rope and thread a fine wire through both, at about 1" from their ends. Then tightly wrap the wire around the rope over the 2" length and cover the resulting splice with a layer of tape. Finally, carefully hoist the joined ropes up the pole, over the sheave and down to the starting position. When replacement becomes necessary it should be recognized that although manila and cotton ropes have given good service over the years, the modern synthetic ropes are far superior. Braided polypropylene and nylon are generally recommended as the best halyard materials, because of their strength, mildew and rot resistance, and exceptional wearing qualities.

## FITTINGS

With *conventional external halyards*, about the only items that should be checked periodically are the flag attachment devices on the halyard. If these become damaged or cease to function properly they should be replaced. Truck assemblies are designed to be maintenance free, and other items such as finials, cleats, cleat boxes, and halyard protectors require no attention, either, under normal circumstances.