Winch Selection Guide

Winch Rating—Pulling capacity or the "rated maximum load" for a winch is determined by the maximum load a winch can pull with only the bottom layer of rope on the drum, an industry standard. Full capacity is retained on the bottom two layers. This rating does not include any friction factors, which will vary according to the specific applications.

Pulling vs. Lifting—Unless specifically indicated, the winches featured are designed for pulling only. Winches may not have all of the features necessary for every lifting application. Winches rated for lifting are marked as such. Winches are not necessarily designed to meet hoisting applications. Refer to all ANSI/ASME requirements for specific applications. All of the winches featured are not to be used for lifting, supporting, or transporting people or loads over areas where people could be present.

Power—Most Dayton® electric and hydraulic winches have power "in" and "out." Some also have a clutch and/or freewheel feature.

Duty Cycle—Unless specified otherwise, most electric DC and AC powered winches cannot be operated continuously. To do this will overheat and damage the motor. The maximum normal duty cycle is 1 to 3 minutes ON, followed by a 20-minute cool-down period. For more frequent operation needs, refer to long cycle or longer duty rated electric units, and continuous duty rated hydraulic winches.