# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedload binder safety talk

Every year truck drivers experience injury dealing with load binders. While they can be one of the most useful tools for the industry, they also pose safety concerns with improper use. There are two types of load binders which are ratchet type and lever type binders used to secure material for transport and distribution.

*Lever type binders:*

* Lever type binders have a greater risk associated with their use
* While they have been around for generations, they take up to 170 lbs. of force to engage
* With this type of lever, a cheater bar is often used to try and alleviate the force being exerted however, this increases the chance of the bar snapping or kicking back causing injury

*Ratchet type binders:*

* Ratchet type binders are much safer option requiring very low force of exertion at around 7 to 20 lbs.
* Along with making it safer to tighten a load it is also a better option for unloading; they have a gradual release to avoid equipment from flying open with extreme force

*Below are tips to remember when working with the equipment:*

* Check wear and tear of the binder before each use looking for cracking or bends
* When in use keep head and body out of the path of the handle so that in the instance that it snaps back there is nothing in the way
* Never use a cheater bar with the binder for tightening or releasing; always do so by hand and in a downward motion
* Position the load binder so that it can be reached from the ground and do not operate while standing on the load
* Always choose and wear gloves that will improve grip while using the equipment****