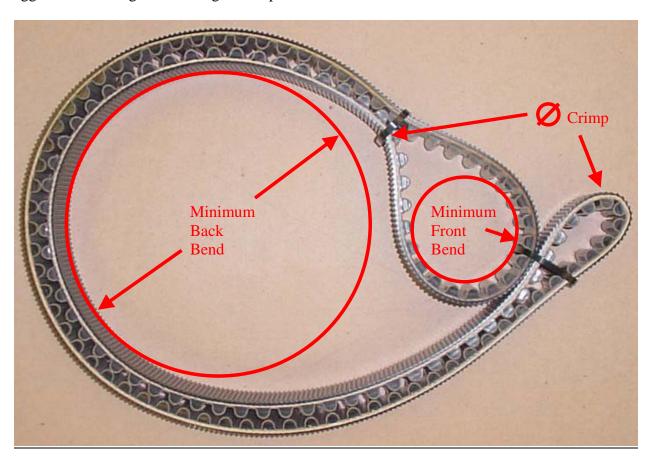# Belt Handling For Poly Chain®

Gates Poly Chain® Belts are extremely durable and give long life in a properly designed drive. However, improper handling of the belt before or during installation can result in dramatically shortened service life. The belt's tensile cords are designed to carry large loads in tension but not compression. Compression causes damage to the tensile cords of the belt and can also lead to adhesion problems. Handling situations that can cause compression in tensile cord include aggressive bending and twisting. Examples of this are:

Crimping the Belt

Crimping of the belt occurs when enough bending pressure is put on the belt in a small radius so that a permanent "set" is formed in the belt. The belt will often take on the outline of a fish head. Crimping damages the tensile cords and will result in premature failure. Do not crimp Poly Chain® Belts.

Forward Bending the Belt

When handling Poly Chain®, forward bends (bends in the direction of the teeth) should be limited to the following minimum diameter for the given belt pitch.

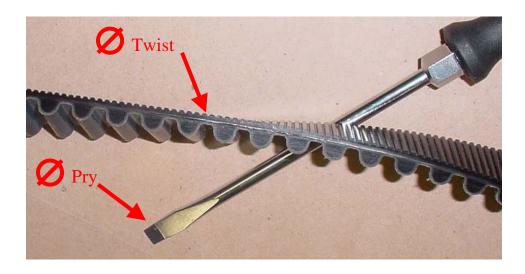| Belt Pitch	Diameter (in)
8mm	3"
11mm (motorcycle applications only)	4"
14mm	5"

Do not forward bend Poly Chain® Belts tighter than the diameters shown above.

Back Bending the Belt

When handling Poly Chain®, back bends (bends in the opposite direction of the teeth) should be limited to the following minimum diameter for the given belt pitch.

Belt Pitch	Diameter (in)
8mm	5"
11mm (motorcycle applications only)	8"
14mm	10"

Do not back bend Poly Chain® Belts tighter than the diameters shown above.

Twisting the Belt

Do not twist the belt as shown in the picture above. This includes coiling the belt to make it smaller for packaging.

Belt Installation

Do not use tools to pry the belt onto the application. Sprocket centers should be adjusted so that the belt can be easily put on by hand.