

Bolting Standards for Dierkes Lake Area and Snake River Canyon near Twin Falls, Idaho

This document provides suggestions and best practices for placing climbing bolts and fixed anchors in the Twin Falls, Idaho region. These guidelines follow standards set forth by the Access Fund (AF), International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA), and American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA). This document is not a regulatory document and therefore, not enforceable. All climbers are responsible for maintaining and respecting our precious climbing resources. We encourage all climbers to closely adhere to the standards provided herein. This document will be updated as needed as recommendations are made by the organizations listed above.

1. Bolting should be carried out only by persons who have acquired sufficient knowledge of outdoor climbing and methods of protection. Good judgement, along with a sound understanding of rock quality and climbing hardware is required when placing bolts. Climbers new to bolting are encouraged to seek out proper instruction and/or mentorship. The Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition (SICC) is a good resource for those interested in bolting.
2. The following recommendations for fixed hardware have been set forth by AF, UIAA, and/or ASCA.
 - a. Bolts and hangers should be stainless steel.
 - b. Bolt diameter and hangers should be ½ inch.
 - c. Lead bolts should be a minimum of 2 ¾ inches long. Anchor bolts should be a minimum of 3½ inches long.
 - d. Fixed anchors should consist of at least two anchor bolts. Each anchor bolt should be separated by at least 5 inches (or 10 times the bolt diameter), but no more than 12 inches.
 - e. Bolt heads, hangers, chains, links, and rap rings should be camouflaged to match the rock color and texture as much as possible so as to be visually unobtrusive, especially in areas visited by the non-climbing public. Commercially available powder-coated hardware is the best option, but painted hardware is acceptable. Painting of hardware should occur before it is placed in the rock. Avoid painting bolts and anchors on rock.
 - f. Where chain is used, the chain length should be as short as possible without compromising safety and/or excessive rope-on-rock wear. Chain thickness should be a minimum of 5/16 inch.
3. Rebolting of existing routes involves specialized skills, experience, and tools and should only be undertaken by those who are qualified. The Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition (SICC) offers workshops, clinics, and rebolting projects where individuals can learn and practice these skills. Rebolting of existing routes should follow these guidelines.
 - a. Whenever possible, the existing bolt hole should be re-used. Great effort should be expended to ensure this occurs. Adopting and practicing low-impact ethics on rock at our climbing areas is of the utmost importance.
 - b. If you cannot remove all or part of a bolt, do not smash it and redrill a new hole. Contact the Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition and provide the location of the bolt and they will come and try to remove it cleanly. When in doubt, leave it alone and notify SICC.
 - c. If a route is in the process of being rebolted and hardware may be missing, please leave a red tag or tape on the bottom bolt to warn climbers that the climb is currently closed. Avoid leaving routes under maintenance for more than a few days or weeks.
4. Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. The standards and guidelines stated herein are intended to ensure the safety of others and will help maintain continued access to climbing areas.

Resources:

<http://theuiaa.org/>

<https://www.accessfund.org/>

<http://safeclimbing.org/>