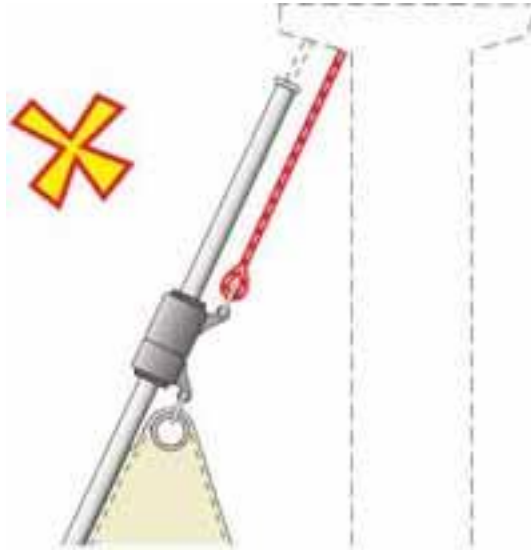
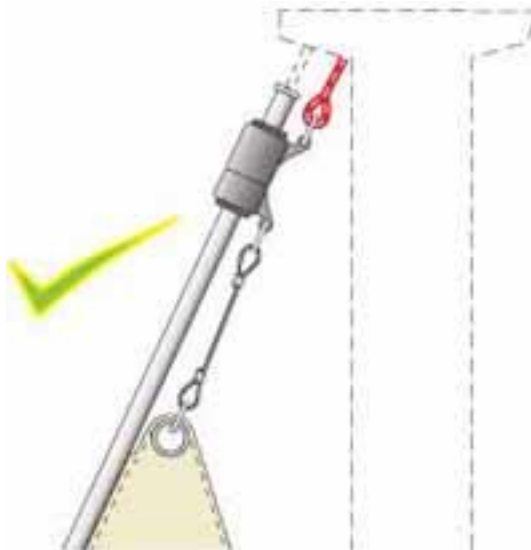


Avoiding Roller Reefing Foul-Ups



Modern roller furling systems are very reliable and require little maintenance; hosing them down with fresh water regularly to flush out the salt from the bearings is all that's needed.

The most common problem is not one of equipment failure, but one of incorrect set-up. If the luff of the sail is much shorter than the foil, the halyard can - and according to Murphy, undoubtedly will - get twisted around the foil comprehensively jamming up the works.



Prevention is quite simple - a short wire stop between the top swivel and the head of the sail. Now the exposed length of the halyard is too short to wrap around the foil, and will prevent the top section of the swivel turning. But if your gear *does* jam for some reason - a seized upper or lower bearing, for example - and you can't furl the sail, then here's what to do:~

- sheet in the mainsail, or lower it, then
- take on jib sheet off, then
- coil the other and take it right forward, then
- motor the sailboat around in tight circles, passing the coil around the forestay until the sail is furled.