







# The Top 5 Manitowoc Crane Parts to Inspect for Signs of Wear

This article focuses on the top five Manitowoc crane parts that demand particular attention when checking for signs of wear. By understanding these critical components, crane operators and maintenance teams can prevent costly downtime and potential safety hazards.

## 1. Wire Ropes and Cables

Wire ropes and cables are the workhorses of Manitowoc cranes, responsible for lifting and moving heavy loads. These components endure significant stress during normal operations, making them prone to wear and tear. When inspecting wire ropes and cables, look for broken wires or strands, kinks, corrosion, flattened sections, or any reduction in rope diameter. A reputable crane parts supplier will emphasize that even minor damage can compromise the integrity of these critical components. Industry standards dictate that wire ropes should be replaced if they show signs of more than 5% wire breakage within a single lay length. Regular inspection of these Manitowoc crane parts is not just a recommendation—it's a necessity for maintaining operational safety and efficiency.


## 2. Hydraulic Hoses and Fittings

The hydraulic system is the lifeblood of Manitowoc cranes, powering various functions from boom movement to outrigger deployment. Hydraulic hoses and fittings, constantly under pressure, can develop weak points over time. During inspections, pay close attention to any signs of cracks or blisters in the hose material, leaks around fittings, kinked sections, or excessive swelling. The importance of these checks cannot be overstated. A study by the Fluid Power Safety Institute found that nearly 25% of hydraulic accidents are due to hose failures. This statistic underscores the critical nature of regular inspections and timely replacement of worn Manitowoc crane parts, particularly in the hydraulic system.

## 3. Sheaves and Pulleys

Sheaves and pulleys play a vital role in the smooth operation of a crane's lifting mechanism. These Manitowoc crane parts guide the wire ropes and distribute the load evenly. When inspecting sheaves and pulleys, focus on identifying any cracks or chips in the sheave groove, uneven wear patterns, excessive play in bearings, or misalignment of sheaves. Crane maintenance experts advise that sheaves should be replaced when the groove wear exceeds 1/32 inch or 3% of the rope diameter, whichever is less. Worn sheaves can accelerate wire rope degradation and affect lifting precision, making their regular inspection a key aspect of crane maintenance.

## 4. Slewing Ring and Bearings



The slewing ring allows the crane's upper works to rotate smoothly, making it critical for precise load positioning and overall crane stability. When examining this large bearing, listen for unusual noises during rotation and watch for excessive play or movement. Uneven rotation or jerky movement can also indicate wear, as can the presence of metal particles in the lubricant. A leading crane parts supplier recommends checking slewing ring bolts for proper torque at least once every 500 hours of operation. This practice helps prevent premature wear and potential failure of this crucial component. Regular inspection and proper lubrication of the slewing ring are essential for maintaining the crane's rotational integrity.

## 5. Boom Sections and Telescoping Components

