



Sports & Barrier Netting Systems
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Netting Materials Guide

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Sports Netting Materials Guide: Nylon, Polyester, and Dyneema Compared

The right netting material depends on the application, the environment, and how long you need the system to last. There is no single answer — but there are clear winners for specific use cases. Here is the honest breakdown.

Nylon (Twisted Knotted)

Nylon is the high-performance standard for impact-intensive applications. It has the highest tensile strength of common netting materials and "gives" slightly on impact — distributing force across the net rather than concentrating it at a single point.

Strengths:

- Highest tensile strength (210–350+ lb depending on gauge)
- Superior impact absorption — ideal for repeated high-velocity ball impact
- Long lifespan with proper treatment (10–14 years outdoor; longer indoor)

Weaknesses:

- Hydrophilic — absorbs water, which can cause sagging and accelerate rot if untreated
- UV degrades untreated nylon rapidly — can lose significant breaking strength in the first year of outdoor exposure
- Tarred or UV-coated nylon overcomes these weaknesses

Best Applications: Indoor batting cages, baseball backstops, and high-impact zones. Nylon is Gorilla Netting's primary outdoor netting material when properly UV-treated or tarred. Lifespan: 10–14 years outdoor (coated), longer indoor.

HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene)

HDPE is lightweight, inherently UV-resistant, and does not absorb water. These properties make it a popular material in the broader netting market.

Strengths:

- Naturally UV-resistant — no coating required
- Does not absorb water — no sagging, no rot
- Lightweight — reduces structural load on poles and cables
- Cost-effective upfront

Weaknesses:

- Lower tensile strength than nylon — not ideal for high-impact zones, and not recommended by Gorilla Netting for long-term outdoor installations. Gorilla Netting does not use HDPE for outdoor netting systems.

Best Applications: Indoor netting systems and at-home/DIY netting applications. Lifespan: 7–10+ years depending on grade.

Polyester

Polyester is the reliable, all-conditions workhorse. Good UV resistance without coating, minimal water absorption, and solid tensile strength make it the go-to for outdoor commercial installations.

Strengths:

- Good UV resistance without coating
- Minimal water absorption
- Stronger than HDPE, comparable to nylon in many applications
- Less stretch than nylon — more dimensional stability in large systems
- Cost-effective for large-scale outdoor installations

Weaknesses:

- Lower impact absorption than nylon — not the first choice for the highest-impact zones

Best Applications: Outdoor driving ranges, sports field barrier netting, golf course barrier netting, and all-weather long-span installations. Lifespan: 7–10 years.

Dyneema / UHMWPE (Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene)

Dyneema is in a class of its own. It is 15 times stronger than steel by weight, immune to UV degradation, and produces virtually no water absorption. Its thread profile is thin enough to nearly disappear at distance.

Strengths:

- 15x stronger than steel by weight
- Immune to UV and water absorption
- Near-invisible sightlines — preferred for premium sports facilities
- 45–50% less wind drag than other materials, allowing wider pole spacing
- 15-year warranties available

Weaknesses:

- Significant upfront cost premium



- Currently being tested for expanded use in golf applications — adoption is growing but cost is the primary barrier

Best Applications: MLB/NCAA backstops, premium driving ranges, high-visibility areas where aesthetics matter. Long-term ROI is strong — one Dyneema net outlasts multiple polyester or nylon replacements.

What About Polypropylene?

Polypropylene is a budget and temporary option only. It has low durability in outdoor conditions and is not recommended by Gorilla Netting for permanent installations.

Material Selection by Application

Application	Recommended Material
Indoor batting cage	Nylon (#36 or #42)
Driving range perimeter (outdoor)	Nylon or Polyester
Golf practice enclosure	High-impact Nylon or Dyneema baffle panel
Baseball backstop (standard)	#36 Nylon or Polyester
Baseball backstop (professional)	Dyneema (#18 HMWPE)
Golf course barrier	Nylon or Polyester
Soccer/lacrosse containment	Nylon or Polyester
Drone enclosure (indoor)	HDPE (acceptable for indoor/light-duty)
Drone enclosure (outdoor)	UV-stabilized Nylon or Polyester
Security/contraband (outdoor)	UV-stabilized Polyester or Nylon

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is nylon or polyester better for outdoor netting?

A: Both are used by Gorilla Netting for outdoor installations. Nylon (properly UV-treated or tarred) has higher tensile strength and impact absorption — better for high-impact applications like backstops and driving range perimeters. Polyester has good UV resistance without coating and excellent dimensional stability — preferred for large barrier systems and lower-impact applications. Gorilla Netting does not use HDPE for outdoor systems.

Q: Does Gorilla Netting use HDPE for outdoor netting?



A: No. Gorilla Netting does not use HDPE for outdoor netting installations. HDPE is acceptable for indoor or DIY applications but does not meet our standards for long-term outdoor performance.

Q: What is Dyneema netting?

A: Dyneema (also called UHMWPE) is an ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene fiber. It is 15 times stronger than steel by weight, immune to UV and moisture, and nearly invisible at distance. It is the professional standard for MLB and NCAA backstops and is being evaluated for expanded use in golf applications. Premium cost, premium performance.

Q: How do I know which material is right for my project?

A: The right material depends on your sport, application, environment, and budget. Contact Gorilla Netting and we'll specify the right material for your specific project.

Not sure which material your project needs?

Gorilla Netting specifies the right material for every installation based on your sport, site, and budget. Call **1-800-274-1079** or visit **gorillanetting.com/get-quote**.