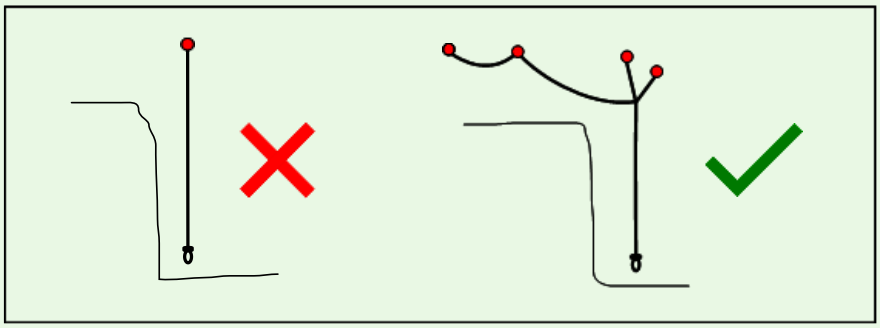
Pre-Use Inspection of Resin Bonded Anchors

Resin anchors installed under the BCA Anchor Scheme are for use by experienced cavers or mine explorers only. Make sure that you understand the pre-use inspection requirements below and rig safely with suitable redundancy. You accept responsibility when you choose to use any anchor.

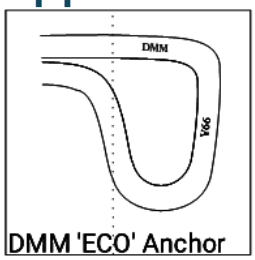
An anchor's presence does not mean a safe descent is possible. It is up to you to plan your route and rig to avoid hazards such as rope rub and falling water.

Good rigging practices:

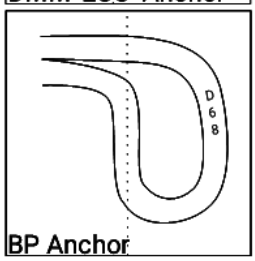
- Anchors can fail. This is rare, but possible, and so you should not rely on a single anchor point unless you deem it to be unquestionably secure
- Always protect the approach to the pitch head
- Use Y-hangs at pitch heads or rebelays where possible. They spread the load across two anchors, minimising the risk in the event of a single anchor failure



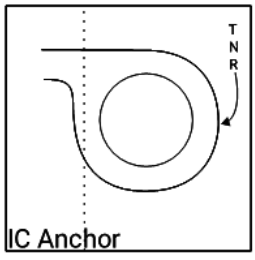
Approved BCA Anchors



DMM 'ECO' Anchor
Original BCA anchor, now discontinued. 'DMM' and serial number stamped in. P-shaped, flat-ended eye. Manufactured from round bar.



BP Anchor
No branding. Stamped serial number. P-shaped, curved eye. Manufactured from round bar.



IC Anchor
No branding. Stamped serial number. P-shaped, circular eye. Manufactured from 8mm plate and the anchor has flat sides.

Check every anchor before you use it

Twist, then pull the anchor, watching for movement. Slight flexing of the metal eye is normal.

If you observe any of the following, then the anchor may be unsafe and should be reported:

- Anchor movement within the resin
  - Inwards or outwards
  - Rotation
- Anchor and resin movement within the rock
  - Inwards or outwards
  - Rotation

Also check:

- ☐ Loose Rock. Is this cave or mine wall around the anchor structurally secure?
- ☐ Fractures of the rock within 20cm of the anchor, including recent cracking or spalling.
- ☐ Wear grooves or thinning of the anchor eye, usually on the lower, inner part of the eye.
- ☐ Physical damage: deformation, impact marks, sharp burrs.
- ☐ Corrosion. Even stainless steel can corrode in some underground environments. Your Regional Council may publish extra guidance for anchors in such places.

Regional Caving Councils may have placed other anchor types beyond those listed here and covered by this advice. Please refer to the RCC website for details on the location and inspection of any other installations they have placed under the BCA Anchor Scheme.

Only use anchors that you are confident are safe

Reporting anchor issues

Report any anchor you have concerns about to your local Regional Caving Council. Note the exact location of the anchor and take a short video or photo if you can.

"3rd from start of traverse in pitch 2 of Example Pot"

Find your Regional Caving Council at british-caving.org.uk/about-bca/

V1.0

Approved by the BCA Anchor Working Group July 2026.

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