

Liquibase vs pgloader

can we do the same thing when we want to migrate the date from one database to another database with liquibase that the pgloader do

Short answer: No — Liquibase cannot fully replace what `pgloader` does.

Long answer: They solve different problems, and you usually use them together, not instead of each other.

I'll explain this very clearly and deeply, step by step, so you have zero doubts.

◆ What pgloader actually does (Data Migration Tool)



pgloader is designed for:

- ✓ Migrating entire databases
- ✓ Moving schema + data together
- ✓ One-time or bulk migrations

Example:

- MySQL → PostgreSQL
- Oracle → PostgreSQL
- SQLite → PostgreSQL

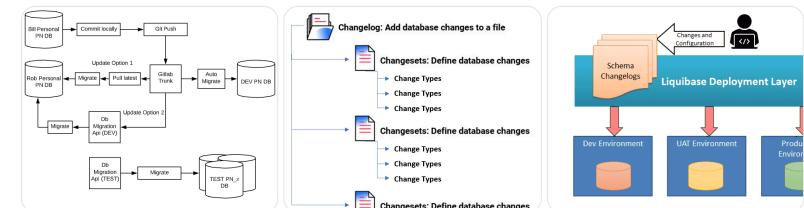
What pgloader migrates automatically:

Item	Migrated
Tables	✓

Item	Migrated
Columns	✓
Data (rows)	✓
Indexes	✓
Primary / Foreign	✓
Keys	
Sequences	✓
Data type conversion	✓
Millions of rows (fast)	✓

👉 pgloader is a DATA MIGRATION ENGINE

◆ What Liquibase actually does (Schema Versioning Tool)



Liquibase is designed for:

- ✓ Managing database schema changes over time
- ✓ Keeping Dev / QA / Prod in sync
- ✓ Version-controlling DB changes

Liquibase focuses on:

Item	Supported
Create / Alter tables	✓

Item	Supported
Add / remove columns	✓
Indexes & constraints	✓
Rollback support	✓
Tracking changes	✓
Bulk data migration	✗
Cross-DB auto conversion	✗

👉 Liquibase is a SCHEMA CHANGE MANAGEMENT TOOL

◆ Direct Comparison (Very Important)

Feature	pgloader	Liquibase
Migrate MySQL → PostgreSQL	✓	✗
Move large volumes of data	✓	✗
Auto convert data types	✓	✗
One-time full DB migration	✓	✗
Track schema changes	✗	✓
CI/CD integration	✗	✓
Rollback support	✗	✓

❓ Can Liquibase migrate data from one DB to another?

● Not like pgloader ✗

Liquibase cannot:

- Read from Database A
- Transform data
- Load into Database B automatically

There is NO built-in mechanism for:

- Cross-database data extraction
- Data type auto-conversion
- Bulk row movement

🟡 What Liquibase *can* do (Limited Data Migration)

Liquibase can move small/static data, like:

- Default roles
- Configuration tables
- Master/reference data

Example (valid use case):

sql

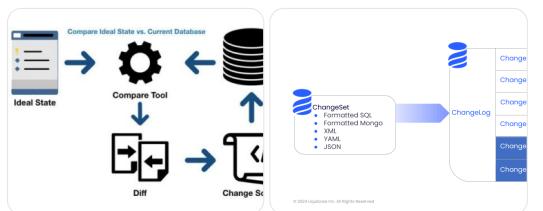
```
INSERT INTO roles (id, name) VALUES (1, 'ADMIN');
```

✗ Bad use case:

- Migrating 1 million users
- Migrating transactional history
- Migrating logs or analytics data

✓ Correct & Industry-Standard Approach (REAL WORLD)

🔥 Best Practice Architecture



Step 1: Use pgloader

```
text

Old DB (MySQL)
↓
pgloader
↓
New DB (PostgreSQL)

✓ Schema created
✓ Data migrated
✓ Types converted
```

Step 2: Put Liquibase on top

```
text

Liquibase starts here
↓
Future schema changes
↓
Dev → QA → Prod

✓ Version control
✓ Safe deployments
✓ Team collaboration
```

💡 Why Liquibase SHOULD NOT be used for full data migration

If you try:

- Huge SQL insert scripts
- Export → insert manually
- Data movement via Liquibase

You will face:

- ✗ Slow builds
- ✗ Transaction failures
- ✗ Memory issues
- ✗ Rollback nightmares
- ✗ CI/CD pipeline crashes

Liquibase is **not designed for this job**.

✳️ When to use WHAT (Simple Rule)

Use pgloader when:

- ✓ Migrating data
- ✓ Switching database engines
- ✓ One-time bulk migration

Use Liquibase when:

- ✓ Managing schema evolution
- ✓ Working in teams
- ✓ Maintaining environments

🎯 Final Verdict (Very Clear)

- ✗ Liquibase cannot do what pgloader does
- ✓ pgloader + Liquibase together = perfect solution

They are **complementary tools**, not competitors.

If you want, next I can:

- Show a real MySQL → PostgreSQL migration example
- Explain how teams safely combine pgloader + Liquibase

- Design a **production-grade migration plan**
- Explain why Flyway vs Liquibase also matters

Just tell me 

Is this conversation helpful so far?