

Powerful Lifts

Did you know that almost all of the items you use every day have one important thing in common? They are all moved from one place to another by a machine. These machines are called forklifts.

Uses of Forklifts

Forklifts are used to move heavy products. Toys, lumber, carpets, and cardboard boxes full of food can be moved by forklifts. The forklift takes these items to another location in a warehouse. Forklifts also load these items onto trucks.

Forklifts have strong motors. Some forklifts are electric. Other forklifts run on fuel. Many electric forklifts are used inside of food warehouses. Forklifts that run on fuel are mostly used outside.



How Forklifts Work

Forklifts weigh a lot. They have to hold the products they are lifting. Forklifts have a center of gravity which keeps them balanced while lifting heavy loads. That way, they do not tip over. The mast of the forklift does the lifting. The mast can lift very high in the air! The mast can also tilt forward and backward. Forks are attached to the mast. These are big metal blades. They look just like a fork! They slide under the load. The forks hold the load in place.



Forklifts have three or four wheels. The front wheels drive. The rear wheels steer. Forklifts can change directions. They can move forward and backward. A forklift with three wheels can turn in a smaller area than a forklift with four wheels.

Safety with Forklifts



Forklifts must be used safely. The forklift driver must take a training class. Forklift drivers have to be very careful. They follow many rules. The driver must wear a seatbelt. The driver must also follow a traffic pattern in the warehouse. This pattern is just like a road. The driver must check the forklift every day to make sure it is working properly, too.

Many large stores use forklifts to move their products around. The next time you are in a store, look around. You might see one of these powerful lifts!