

## Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Pasadena - Without forklift attachments, many jobs would be difficult, if not impossible. The wide range of forklift attachments make most jobs not only possible but also safer and quicker. Forklift operators require training for each attachment they will be using as well as their general forklift training. There are many non-hydraulic attachments and hydraulic attachments available for forklift attachments. They provide many benefits including decreasing fuel consumption, time, man-power, damage to stock and employee accidents. Equipment Considerations A forklift attachment can replace an existing forklift attachment or can be added to a forklift that does not already have one. There are many equipment factors to consider prior to adding or replacing any forklift attachments. Considerations include the carriage type, the forklift model, the capacity of the forklift and the number of hydraulic functions used to power the features of the attachment. Not considering these issues will drastically increase the safety risks associated with operating the machine and its attachments. This can increase risks relating to operator safety, forklift damage, stock damage and more. Extra safety factors must be considered which will be discussed in more detail. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating Manufacturers give forklifts a lift capacity rating that needs to be considered and adjusted when adding or changing forklift attachments. Online calculators are available from manufacturers of forklift attachment's to provide estimates on every attachments' lifting capacity. It is important to note that only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. Before installing any kind of attachment, it is essential to contact the local authorized forklift dealer of the particular forklift brand to request that they rate the machine accordingly with the attachment being used. Once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine, it will ideally have a new specification plate that is factory authorized. The upgraded specification plate replaces the original plate and needs to be installed with the new forklift rating showing. Equipment Upgrades It is vital to note when working with forklift attachments the equipment's hydraulic function consists of a forklift valve that has a lever located near the operator which creates two areas for pressurized hydraulic passages for oil. While not all forklift attachments are hydraulic, hydraulic attachments often include more features than the forklift has valves. In this circumstance, it is common to add one or more valves as needed. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. There are many ways to add a forklift valve. Equipment manufacturers make forklift accessories for hose routing and valve placement. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Alternative methods include adding a solenoid valve in conjunction with a hose or cable reel that diverts oil flow from an existing function. Unfortunately, hose and cable reels can sometimes block the operator's view and can be easily damaged. Kits are available that rely on a solenoid valve and certain hoses to transform the reinforced braid to additionally function as an electrical conduit. Because these hoses replace the existing hoses housed in the forklift, the hoses are safe from damage while keeping the operator's field of vision clear. Safety Considerations Prior to fitting any type of forklift attachment, proper training must be obtained. Operators need to be competent with removing, operating and fitting the attachment before using it. Before using any forklift attachment, two safety issues need consideration. Firstly, it is important to note that any kind of forklift attachment will reduce the machine's nominal load rating. The nominal load rating is computed with a stock fork carriage and forks. However, the actual load rating may be substantially lower. Secondly, the forklift's center of gravity will be affected when any forklift attachment is added. The forklift's stability will be reduced and this needs to be computed for safety. Since the attachment's weight is prominent in front of the fulcrum point on the forklift, the operator needs to drive the machine as though it is partially loaded even before it is carrying a load. Thus, when using any attachment, an operator should travel at a slow speed and make turns slowly and gently. Check the forklift's capacity to ensure that every attachment is listed on the data plate. To maintain safety, special checks need to be completed before using any forklift attachment. The forklift attachment

needs to be the right one for the type of forklift being used, appropriate for the load at hand, correctly attached, locked in place and permitted on the data plate of the forklift.

### List of Common Forklift Attachments

Discover a list of common forklift attachments and how they are utilized below. This is just a sample list of some of the most popular forklift attachments. As you will see, the large variety of attachments available have the capacity to greatly increase the efficiency of many jobs.

**SIDESHIFTER:** Allows the operator to move the forks laterally, allowing for easier placement of a load without the need to reposition the entire forklift.

**FORK POSITIONERS:** The fork positioners adjust for different loads by moving the forks together or apart in relation to each other.

**DIMENSIONING DEVICES:** Dimensioning devices feature cargo dimensions useful for creating better efficiency in trucks, trailers and warehouses. This technology is often used alongside billing systems that monitor volume.

**ROTATOR:** Rotators help to right tilted skids and are useful for fast unloading and tackling custom load requirements. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature.

**ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP:** The roll and barrel clamp simplifies grasping rounded loads such as barrels. It has numerous pressure settings for handling fragile items with less damage potential. This attachment often has a rotate function to change the load from a vertical to a horizontal position.

**CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP:** Allows for grasping a load with a more squared shape, often with pressure settings. Products like cartons, boxes and bales can be moved with this type of attachment.

**POLE ATTACHMENTS:** Pole attachments are placed where the forks would normally be and are used for transporting carpet and rolled up linoleum.

**SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL:** Slip sheeter or push-pull attachment lets the operator move slip sheets with a clamping option instead of pallets. It can pull the slip sheet onto thin and wide metal forks to facilitate pushing or loading. The attachment variations include “Save,” where the slip sheet is removed to be used again or “Standard.”

**DRUM HANDLER:** The drum handler is specifically designed to transport drums. It might feature arms to hold the drum or be a spring-loaded model to grip the top lid.

**DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER:** The drum and storage bin tipper is designed for easier transport of liquid items or loose materials into bigger containers.

**MAN BASKET:** Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for safety harnesses.

**TELESCOPIC FORKS:** Allows operation in a warehouse using two pallet stacking where one shelf is placed directly behind another with no aisle between the two.

**SCALES:** Enables operators to simultaneously weigh and transport pallets, eliminating the need to interrupt transport to travel to scales, and can be obtained in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by weight.

**SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS:** Allow movement of a single pallet or platform or two pallets side by side. With the correct attachment/s a single forklift can be used for multiple specialist materials handling tasks alongside normal lifting tasks, thus reducing the need for owning a specialist unit alongside a normal unit and the larger running and maintenance costs associated with multiple units.

**SNOW PLOW:** Snow plows are used to remove snow and redistribute it; however, this attachment can be used with other loose kinds of material.

**SKIPS:** Skips facilitate fast and safe removal of waste to the proper waste or skip compactor. Skips are either a bottom-emptying model or a roll-forward type.

**BOOMS AND JIBS:** Allow for extended reach of a forklift to transport suspended loads or loads that are stacked high or deep. They are available in different setups such as reach over and precision lifting or low profile fixed and extendable lengths.