

## Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Ohio - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. There are numerous forklift attachments that make jobs faster and safer to complete. In addition to general forklift training, operators must be properly training for each attachment they intent to use. Forklift attachments come in a wide variety of hydraulic and non-hydraulic attachments. The benefits of utilizing a forklift attachment include decreasing: 1. Employee accidents; 2. Damage to stock; 3. Manpower; 4. Time; and 5. Fuel consumption.

**Equipment Considerations** Forklift attachments can replace existing attachments or may be added to a machine that doesn't 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. Failure to properly consider these factors will increase the safety risk associated with operation of a forklift and its attachments and increase the risk for damage to the forklift, the attachment and surrounding area, including stock. Extra safety factors must be considered which will be discussed in more detail.

**Forklift Rating and Re-Rating** Forklifts are given lift capacity ratings by the manufacturer which will need to be adjusted if adding or changing a forklift attachment. Online calculators are available from manufacturers of forklift attachment's to provide estimates on every attachments' lifting capacity. Accurate lifting capacities are only available from the forklift manufacturers. 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. Hydraulic forklift attachments typically offer numerous features compared to the number of valves on the forklift. Not ever forklift attachment is hydraulic. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. There are several methods of adding a valve. The manufacturers of forklifts create accessories to simplify hose and valve routing. However, the parts and labor to install these can be so expensive as to make this option impractical. 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. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. Since these hoses replace existing forklift hoses, they remain safe from external damage while maintaining clear vision for the operator.

**Safety Considerations** Proper training must be obtained prior to fitting any forklift attachment. The operator needs to be able to remove, fit and operate the attachment. Two important safety factors must be considered before the use of any forklift attachment. 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. Second, the center of gravity will be affected by the use of any forklift attachment. 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. Operators need to travel gently and slowly every time they use an attachment and take extra care while turning. Check the forklift's capacity to ensure that every attachment is listed on the data plate. Certain safety checks need to be done before using any kind of attachment. The forklift attachment must be permitted on the forklift's data plate, locked properly, correctly attached, appropriate for the particular load and appropriate for the type of forklift being used.

List of Common Forklift Attachments Discover a list of common forklift

attachments and how they are utilized below. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. Forklift attachments are designed to increase job efficiency for many applications.

**SIDESHIFTER:** The operator can manipulate the forks laterally with a sideshifter. This allows for easier load placement without having to move the entire forklift.

**FORK POSITIONERS:** Fork positioners allow the forks to travel apart or together with each other to adjust for different load sizes.

**DIMENSIONING DEVICES:** Provide dimensions for the cargo allowing for more efficient use of warehouse and truck trailer space and often used in conjunction with billing systems based on volume.

**ROTATOR:** Assists in righting skids that have tilted, handling custom load requirements and quick unloading. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature.

**ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP:** Allows for grasping of load with a rounded shape, such as rolled material and barrels, often with various pressure setting to avoid damage to more fragile materials. These attachments sometimes also have a rotate function to assist with, for example, rotating an item from a horizontal to a vertical position.

**CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP:** The carton and multipurpose clamp has pressure settings and is used for handling more squared shaped loads. It easily masters boxes, bales and cartons.

**POLE ATTACHMENTS:** Long, metal pole used in place of forks to lift rolled items such as carpet or 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:** Allows for quick transfer of loose or liquid contents in large containers.

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

**TELESCOPIC FORKS:** Telescopic forks are used in warehouses that rely on stacking two pallets in the event one shelf is located behind another shelf with no aisle in between.

**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:** Single-double forks facilitate movement of a single platform or pallet or two side-by-side pallets. This is useful for transporting specialty items with the right attachments employed. It can be used with normal lifting tasks and stops the need for owning two separate machines. This greatly reduces the cost of maintenance and operation that is used with multiple forklifts.

**SNOW PLOW:** Designed for snow removal and distribution but can also be used to move other types of loose material.

**SKIPS:** Skips enable quick and safe waste removal to a skip or waste compactor. They may feature a bottom-emptying design or be a roll-forward model.

**BOOMS AND JIBS:** Jibs and boom offer extended forklift reach for transporting loads that are stacked deep or high or that are suspended. There are reach-over, low profile, precision lifting and extendable length options.