

## Forklift Attachment

**Forklift Attachments Chula Vista** - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. Forklift attachments make many jobs safer, easier and quicker 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 be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. Several equipment-related factors must be considered before any forklift attachment is replaced or added. These considerations include: 1. The forklift type; 2. The forklift's capacity; 3. The carriage type; and 4. The number of hydraulic functions. 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. Further safety factors must also be taken into consideration, which will be discussed in greater detail below.

**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. Manufacturers of forklift attachments usually offer calculators available online to estimate the safe lifting capacity when using a particular attachment. Accurate lifting capacities are only available from the forklift manufacturers. Prior to installing any attachment, it is important to contact the local authorized dealer of the forklift brand being used and request that they re-rate the forklift in accordance with the attachment being considered for use. 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 several methods of adding a valve. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. However, the parts and labor to install these can be so expensive as to make this option impractical. Another possibility is to install a cable reel, solenoid valve and hose to divert oil from an alternate location. However, the operators' view may be compromised due to the cable reels and hose installation. These parts also may be easily damaged by their location. Special hoses and a solenoid valve kit can be used to create an electrical conduit out of the reinforced braid. 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. An operator must be competent in the fitting, operating and removal of the attachment. There are 2 vital safety factors to think about before operating any type of forklift attachment. First, any attachment on a forklift will reduce its nominal load rating, as mentioned above. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Second, the center of gravity will be affected by the use of any forklift attachment. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. Because the weight of the attachment will be placed in front of the forklift's fulcrum point, it is necessary to drive the forklift as though it is partially loaded, even prior to picking up a load. Thus, when using any attachment, an operator should travel at a slow speed and make turns slowly and gently. As noted above, each attachment should be listed on the data plate of the forklift's capacity. 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. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. As you will see, the large variety of attachments available have the capacity to greatly increase the efficiency of many jobs.

**SIDESHIFTER:** The sideshifter enables the forklift to move laterally for easier load placement without having to reposition the entire machine.

**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:** A rotator helps to straighten tilted skids and handle custom load requirements and fast unloading. There is a rotator feature on numerous attachments.

**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:** The carton and multipurpose clamp is for grasping loads with a squared shape. It also features pressure settings to handle bales, boxes and cartons.

**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:** Allows for grasping drums, either with a spring-loaded jaw to grip the top lip of a drum, or with arms that encircle the drum, for transport.

**DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER:** Allows for quick transfer of loose or liquid contents in large containers.

**MAN BASKET:** The man basket is a lift platform to allow workers to complete jobs with brackets and railings and 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:** 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:** Originally designed for snow removal, snow plow attachments can be used to move other loose items.

**SKIPS:** Allows safe and speedy removal of waste to the appropriate skip or waste compactor. Skips are available in a roll-forward type and a bottom-emptying 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.