

## Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments BC - Many different jobs would be impossible without the help of forklift attachments. The wide range of forklift attachments make most jobs not only possible but also safer and quicker. Besides regular forklift training, operators also need to undergo proper training for every attachment they will be using. 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. Various considerations need to be taken prior to adding or replacing any forklift attachment. These considerations include the kind of forklift, the machine's capacity, the number of hydraulic functions required to power the attachment's and the type of carriage. 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. 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. 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. The first step before installing any attachment is to get in touch with the authorized local forklift dealer to request that that forklift brand is re-rated accordingly with the attachment. After the manufacturer of the forklift has re-rated the forklift, it should have a new factory authorized specification plate. The upgraded specification plate replaces the original plate and needs to be installed with the new forklift rating showing. Equipment Upgrades When dealing with forklift attachments it is important to note that a forklift's hydraulic function is made up of a valve on the forklift with a lever located close to the operator which provides two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil to power the attachment features. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. When this happens, the forklift needs to have one or more valves added. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. The manufacturers of forklifts create accessories to simplify hose and valve routing. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Another possibility is to install a cable reel, solenoid valve and hose to divert oil from an alternate location. 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 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. 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 determined with forks and a stock fork carriage. It is important to note that the real load rating may be significantly lower. Second, the center of gravity will be affected by the use of any forklift attachment. This will reduce the forklift's stability. 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. Specific safety checks must be made prior to using each forklift attachment. The attachment must be: 1. Appropriate for the specific forklift being used; 2. Appropriate for the specific load; 3. Attached correctly; 4. Properly locked; and 5. Permitted

on the forklift's data plate. **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:** Rotators help to right tilted skids and are useful for fast unloading and tackling custom load requirements. Many attachments include a rotator feature. **ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP:** The roll and barrel clamp allows the forklift to grasp rounded loads including barrels. It is outfitted with different pressure settings to facilitate fragile options and often has a rotate function to simplify horizontal and vertical positioning. **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:** 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:** The drum and storage bin tipper is designed for easier transport of liquid items or loose materials into bigger containers. **MAN BASKET:** The lift platform known as a man basket is designed to transport workers vertically. It is outfitted with brackets and railings to anchor safety harnesses. **TELESCOPIC FORKS:** The telescopic forks are used in locations with a two pallet stacking design where one shelf is placed right behind another with no aisle between them. **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 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:** Booms and jibs allow forklifts extended reach. They are available to transport deep or highly stacked loads, suspended loads and more. These attachments can be low profile, precision lifting or reach over models to facilitate extended lengths.