

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Simi Valley - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. 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. Many hydraulic and non-hydraulic forklift attachments are available. They offer numerous benefits by decreasing man-power, employee accidents, fuel consumption, damage to stock and time. 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. Failing to take these aforementioned factors into consideration can create extra safety hazards and risks for the operator, the forklift, its' attachments and the 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. However, only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. 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. This new specification plate will replace the original plate and should be installed showing the new rating for the forklift. Equipment Upgrades Forklift attachments rely on the machine's hydraulic function and are made up of a forklift valve that has a lever situated close to the operator. This creates two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil for powering the attachment features. Hydraulic forklift attachments typically offer numerous features compared to the number of valves on the forklift. Not every forklift attachment is hydraulic. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. 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. 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. These hoses are designed to replace existing ones and stay free from being damaged. The operator can enjoy a clear view with this option. Safety Considerations Before using any type of forklift attachment, adequate training must be fulfilled. 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. 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. 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. Thus, when using any attachment, an operator should travel at a slow speed and make turns slowly and gently. Every attachment should be listed on the forklift capacity 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 A list of the most common attachments and their general uses are set out 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 operator can manipulate the forks laterally with a sideshifter. This allows for easier load placement without having to move the entire forklift. **FORK POSITIONERS:** Moves the forks together or apart in relation to one another to adjust for various load types. **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. There is a rotator feature on numerous attachments. **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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** Scales allow forklift operators to weigh their pallets during transport. This increases efficiency by providing simultaneous data and not making the operator travel back and forth to scales. This attachment can be used for operators who bill by weight in legal-for-trade applications. **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.