

## Multi Directional Forklift

Used Side Loader Forklift North Dakota - A side loader forklift truck is made for lifting very heavy and long items within the confines of the narrow aisles of a warehouse, lumber yard, loading dock or other facility. These machines have derived their name from the way they unload, load and transport material. Benefits of Side Loader Forklifts v Standard Forklifts Forklifts that rely on the original counterbalance system can become unstable when moving long or heavy loads. The side loader is capable of transporting dangerous loads such as piping and timber. Having the load face the direction of travel ensures that timber and steel can be easier to maneuver. They also offer the advantage of providing the driver of the forklift with an unobstructed view, which is otherwise at least somewhat or greatly impeded by the tines and load carried at the front on a standard forklift. Side loaders can access narrow aisles and tinier doorways with ease since loads are transported down the side of the machine instead of on the front as with a standard forklift. The load may have to be raised on regular forklifts to travel around obstacles that increase the chances of tipping over. Much of the maneuvering is eliminated with side loaders. Operating in narrow warehouse locations is much safer and more accurate with side loaders. Many models can lift up to 12K lbs. while traveling at speeds higher than 5 miles an hour. There may be the ability to have travel speeds programmed. This design enables operators to match speed to a certain job.

### Types of Side Loader Forklifts Class 2 - Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks

The Class 2 Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks are where the side loader forklifts are classified. This class captures the forklifts that operate in narrow aisles with electrically sourced power. These are popular in warehouses, covered loading docks and other facilities that use a narrow aisle configuration or require moving between narrow spaces and where long items such as laminates, carpet, bar stock, lumber and furniture are stocked. These machines are used for feeding machine tools and rack storage. The narrow aisle set up is common in warehouses because it allows for the maximum possible use of a storage area which helps to save on costly square footage as well as travel time between material and loading and unloading areas. These Class 2 side loader forklifts are designed to minimize the area taken up by the forklift truck. This allows increased efficiency and speed when moving, loading and unloading in narrow aisles. Because they are designed primarily for indoor facility use, their electrical power source also means that the harmful emissions that would accumulate from the use of an internal combustion engine are eliminated.

### Internal Combustion Engine Side Loader Forklifts

The Class 2 forklifts only apply to side loaders that use electric power. Units that do not rely on electricity do not fall into this category. Side loaders are common at steel and pipe yards and lumber and timber yards. They accurately transport loads from storage areas including racking, flatbeds, and stacking loads in blocks. These machines that are used outside have to deal with uneven ground and different temperatures. There are internal combustion models available and they may use pneumatic tires for more stable transport. Side loaders are especially popular for these types of applications because the weight and length of materials being handled mean that the side loader forklift can maneuver between narrow stacks, piles or aisles to pick up the long load in their middle which is crucial for loading long items and safely transporting them.

### Side Loader Forklift Design

The side loader forklift comes in two basic designs: 1. Stand on; and 2. Sit down.

#### Stand On Side Loader Forklifts

Stand-on side loaders are often seen in interior locations. It consists of a platform area that is surrounded by controls and usually found in the middle of the machine. The stand on unit has many advantages. The stand on side loader does not require a seat for the operator which allows for a smaller cab design. This means the forklift has a smaller footprint which is an advantage when maneuvering around tight, high-traffic areas. The operator also has increased visibility when operating in a standing position, especially when operating the forklift in reverse. Operators have a better view while standing and reversing compared to having to twist their body, back and neck to see as with a sit-down unit. Stand-up models have comfort and safety. Better operator visibility lessens injuries and product damage. Finally, the operator in a stand on forklift is able to enter and exit the

cab quicker than a sit down forklift which can increase workplace efficiency in some applications. Sit Down Side Loader Forklifts Sit-down loaders are more popular than standing loaders. Much like the stand on side loader, the sit down design has a cab usually located at the center of the truck. The difference that a sit down forklift has a raised platform with a seat facing the forklift's control panel. The sit-down units boast better operator comfort. The operator is able to control the forklift from a resting position which decreases operator fatigue which increases productivity. Customizable Features The side loader has customizable bed length options to be suitable for many jobs. Popular for heavy and bulky items, the standard side loader has been designed to fit heavy and bulky loads. A sixty-inch extension upwards may be utilized for special jobs. A side loader cannot be customized before bed length considerations are given to ensure that guide rails and aisle widths can accommodate. These machines can function in a multidirectional manner. Side loaders have crab steering to enable them to have two wheels operate separately from others. This feature allows the side loader to move in all four directions by changing the direction of the wheels, allowing the forklift to move sideways into narrow storage aisles without making large, swing-out turns or multiple adjustments. Safety is increased with the tighter turning radius and damage is avoided to facilities and items. Efficiency is further achieved by lessening the space and time required to travel around the job. It is possible to customize a variety of side loader forklift features for specific jobs. Tine length, mirrors, lights, lift mast heights and lift capacities are some of the custom options available. Certain features are also adjustable, allowing for further customization of the side loader for the particular job application. Travel speed, acceleration time, load limits and breaking force can all be set allowing further job efficiency and increased workplace safety. For all of the above reason, the side loader forklift has become the most popular option for workplaces where space is limited and long loads are involved.