

## Multi Directional Forklift

Used Side Loader Forklift Alberta - The side loader forklift is designed for lifting heavy cargo in narrow locations including loading docks, lumber yards and warehouse aisles. These machines have derived their name from the way they unload, load and transport material. Benefits of Side Loader Forklifts v Standard Forklifts Forklifts which operate on the standard counterbalance system may become unstable when loading, transporting or unloading heavy, long loads. However, the side loader forklift is specially designed to handle these types of loads, such as long pipes and raw timber, providing much more stability. Excessive loads including pipes, steel or timber can be handled easier thanks to the design of having the load face the direction of travel. 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. Since the loads are transported along the side of the forklift instead of across the front, the side loader can travel easier through narrow aisles and doorways. The load may have to be lowered or raised to get past obstacles that can increase the chances of destabilizing and cause dangerous tip-overs. Much of the maneuvering is eliminated with side loaders. Operating in narrow warehouse locations is much safer and more accurate with side loaders. Most side loaders are able to lift up to 12,000 pounds and can travel at speeds just above 5 miles per hour but are often equipped with the ability to program travel speeds. Programmable travel speeds are useful for allowing operators to match speed for particular jobs.

Types of Side Loader Forklifts Class 2 - Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks Side loader forklifts often fall under the Class 2 - Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks classification. This kind of forklift classification covers electrically sourced narrow aisle forklifts. Excellent for operating in loading docks and warehouses, these units rely on narrow aisle configuration and are moved between close quarters common for storing lumber, bar stock, laminate and carpet. These machines are additionally used for rack storage and feeding machine tools. Narrow aisle locations are popular in warehouses for allowing maximum storage design and efficiency. These Class 2 side loader forklifts are designed to minimize the area taken up by the forklift truck. These machines create better efficiency and speed while moving, unloading and loading narrow aisle locations. 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 Side loaders that are not powered by electricity obviously do not fall under the Class 2 forklift classification. Side loaders are found in timber and lumber yards and pipe and steel yards for transporting long and heavy loads. They can move items from flatbed trucks, stack items in blocks or racking. Side loaders used in these contexts must be able to work outdoors, often in varying temperatures and over uneven surfaces. Internal combustion models are common. These units rely on pneumatic tires for better transportation. Side loaders are great for these work environments as they are built to handle the length of items and the weight. Picking items up in the middle is vital for loading and unloading long materials safely and efficiently.

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 Used mostly indoors in applications such as warehouses, the stand on end control has a small platform area surrounded by the forklift's controls, usually located in the middle of the truck, for the operator to stand. The stand on unit has many advantages. Stand-on side loaders don't have an operator seat, allowing for a more streamlined cab design. A forklift operating with a smaller footprint is excellent for working in high-traffic locations. There is better visibility for the operator when working in a standing position, particularly while operating the machine backward. While standing, the operator can turn their body to see the back of the forklift truck while in reverse. In a sit-down machine, operators need to twist their neck and back to get a clear view. This is clearly an advantage in terms of safety as well as comfort. Increased operator visibility also helps to decrease damage to products and facilities. Operators can get onto and off of the stand up forklift faster compared to a sit-down model and this

may increase efficiency in certain situations. **Sit Down Side Loader Forklifts** Of the two basic designs, the sit down side loader forklift is the most popular. Similar to the side loader stand, the sit-down unit features a centrally located cab. The difference that a sit down forklift has a raised platform with a seat facing the forklift's control panel. Operator comfort is one of the main advantages of the sit-down side loader. The machine enhances productivity and reduces fatigue when operators can work from a resting position.

**Customizable Features** Because of the wide range of jobs that use side loader forklifts, the side loader is available in customizable bed lengths. Custom applications can be met on the job with a sixty-inch extension to further the reach of standard bed length side loaders. Side loaders need to consider aisle widths and guide rails prior to customization. Multidirectional abilities are one of the most popular features of these machines. Crab steering on side loaders refers to having two wheels function independently from the other wheels. Crab steering allows the unit to travel in all four directions by changing the direction of the wheels. The side loader can fit into close quarters and narrow spaces without needing to make huge turns or 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. Several other features on side loader forklifts are often customized based on jobsite application. Customizable options include lift capacities, lift mast heights, tine length, mirrors, lights and more. 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.