

THE IMPACT OF TIRE WEAR

When keeping track of the various powerful, hard-working components of an industrial forklift, it's easy to overlook some of the most subtle, yet crucial pieces: The tires. They may not seem impressive, but think about this: It is estimated that the average drive tire on a forklift carries more than 9,600 lbs., and unlike other vehicles, forklifts have no suspension systems to dissipate shock loads. The tires absorb every ounce of your forklift and its load, making it crucial to ensure they're safe to use at all times.

Forklift tires are in danger of sustaining damage or simply wearing out through regular use. It may be easy to look at a functioning tire and say, "It seems like it works to me," but you may be taking a serious risk by ignoring the signs that tires should be retired from service. It is important to switch out your tires after they sustain a certain amount of wear or any notable damage, as these conditions can cause:

Fatigue and job stress

Operators who use a forklift with chunked, worn or flat spotted tires have increased fatigue and job stress, possibly making them less careful and productive.

Loads can be compromised

Loads can be compromised by the constant jarring and rocking, leading to damaged product and safety issues such as an upset forklift load falling on an employee.

Stability issues

Kingpin is subjected to excessive stresses from shocks and uneven operation. This can cause potential stability issues.

Accelerated fork heel wear

Fork heel wear is accelerated as it becomes easier for an operator to drag the forks

Engines and transmission leak

Decreased ground clearances subject the truck to more damage to assemblies underneath. Having little to no cushion from worn forklift tires can loosen hardware on the unit which can cause engines and transmissions to leak.

Air tire blowing

Air tires risk blowing out, which can cause a tip over or lost load.

Facility damage

The floors in your facility can experience damage due to bad forklift tires

