Forklift Tire Guide

Maximize Tire Life

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1 Buy quality tires

The major factors that determine tire performance are manufacturing and material consistency along with the quality of material used in the manufacturing process. In other words, it pays to buy quality tires.

2 Check the tires at the start of each shift

One of the most important things you can do for your forklift (and yourself as an operator) is to check the wear of the tires. Driving a forklift with worn out tires is dangerous, so be aware of the following situations in which your forklift tires could be damaged.

3 Don't cross the line

Check the wear indicators on your tires. If the rubber has worn down to the line, or the tire wear has reached the top of the lettering on the side-wall, the tire needs replacement.

4 Remember the 33% rule

For press-on or cushion tires, specifically, regularly inspect tires to make sure that they don't go below two-thirds of their original rubber height.

5 Avoid long runs without product

When forklifts travel long distances without a load, this puts additional pressure on the steer tires due to the weight of the counter-balance.

6 Check tire treads

Use a tread depth gauge to determine how much tread is left and look closely for chunking, punctures and signs of impact.

Using a tread depth gauge to determine how much tread is left.

7 Slow your roll

Avoid tire abuse. Actions like excessive spinning, sudden stopping, ramming, overloading, or throwing the truck into forward or reverse without stopping first are all rough on tires and will shorten tire life.

8 Avoid "standing loads"

If you leave a load standing on a forklift for a long period, like overnight, solid tires can form flat spots. This makes for a rough ride, excess wear, and leads to premature tire replacement.

9 Avoid overheating the tires

Heat enhances the effects of cracking and deterioration in rubber. Pneumatic tires should have the pressure checked regularly. As the temperatures rise, so does the pressure in your tire so you may need to let a little air out in the summer. Doing these things should help prevent a blowout.

10 Avoid oil, grease, and gasoline spills

Think about it—most traditional indoor forklifts have smooth treads and they are running on smooth floors. Yikes! Adding grease or oil will create a very slippery and dangerous situation.

And, in addition to being super dangerous, those chemicals cause tire rubber compounds to breakdown, leading to accelerated wear and tear of your tires. What can you do?

#1. If the tires come in contact with any of these materials, wipe them off immediately.

#2. If you can't avoid constant contact with oil or grease, consider tires made with oil resistant compounds.

#3. Encourage prompt cleaning up of any oil spills in your facility.

Tires with chunking decrease the stability of a forklift and can contribute to a tip-over accident.

11 Avoid running over debris

Running over debris (think wood chunks, metal shavings, and other by-products of manufacturing and/or packing and shipping) can cause serious damage and chunking.

Chunking, which literally means chunks of your tire coming off, causes wear and tear on both the operator and the truck. What can you do?

#1. Avoid debris
#2. Encourage prompt cleaning up of debris—especially in the path of forklifts.

Remember September!

Plan to save on tires during the Annual Morrison September Tire Sale. With factory-backed discounts, it is *THE* time to buy forklift tires!

DID YOU KNOW?

Damaged forklift tires negatively affect productivity and profit because they lead directly to increased fuel consumption, reduced efficiency, and threats to employee safety.

Most of the damage and premature wear to forklift tires can be avoided by creating awareness and changing up some habits and practices.