

Help Stop Lift Truck Abuse

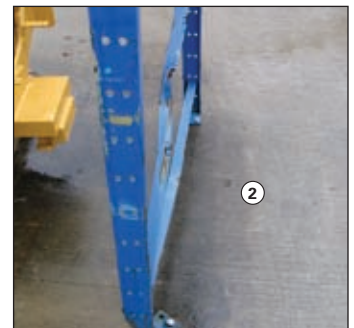
Material Handling Solutions Guide

The Cost Of Lift Truck Abuse

Whether you've acquired a new fleet of forklifts or have had them for some time, you want to ensure they continue to provide a high rate of return. Because many unexpected expenses can be attributed to careless operation and operator abuse, this guide will help you identify some items that indirectly contribute to abuse expenses related to operating your Cat® lift trucks or mixed fleet of forklifts. In addition, if you're looking for ways to lower operating expenses while increasing safety and productivity, we have some simple solutions.

Causes Of Forklift And Facility Damage

- 1 Incorrect Equipment or Options.** Utilizing the incorrect equipment in an application can cause premature wear and failure to major components. Proper equipment selection is vital for efficient lift truck operation and performance, as well as lowering maintenance costs. For instance, it is important to know that operating with worn or incorrect tires can be a major contributor to your maintenance expense.
- 2 Improper Operating Practices.** Even the most skilled operators may have trouble navigating lift trucks around products. Although lift trucks are designed to lift and carry heavy loads, a congested work area is another key cause of impact damage to product, equipment or facilities. "Bulldozing" or pushing pallets can result in premature tire wear and expensive transmission damage. In addition, losing control of the lift truck can cause product damage or personal injury. Impacts to the forklift can damage tires, wheels, body panels, frame parts, forks, attachments and the load backrest. See the Operation and Maintenance Manual (OMM) that shipped with your forklift for more information.
- 3 Unsafe Lifting and Speeding.** Serious damage or personal injury can occur when lift trucks operate at high lift and travel speeds. Also, raising a heavy load while traveling too fast can cause the lift truck to wobble or even tip over. Care should be taken when lifting to ensure that the forks are level, otherwise an unsafe condition can occur.
- 4 Poor Floor Conditions.** Did you know driving over debris is the number one cause of avoidable damage expense? Driving over debris such as wood, plastic wrap, twine and banding can cause radiator or axle damage, and if blown into the engine compartment, it can destroy the cooling system and potentially cause engine failure or a fire.



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Lower Operating Costs By Protecting Your Investment

Lift truck abuse is preventable. That's why your Cat® lift truck dealer offers a total solution for eliminating such abuse. Below, you will find simple solutions and cost-efficient options to consider for preventing abuse.

Abuse Items	Product or Service Solutions
1 Worn Tires.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlike your personal automobile, lift trucks are not equipped with suspension springs that provide additional cushioning. It is important to replace worn or chunked tires that cause jarring impacts to the wheel, axle components, load and operator. Demanding applications require using the proper tires for maximum lift truck performance. To ensure your equipment has the proper tires, request an application survey from your local Cat lift truck dealer.
2 Premature Fork Wear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating with worn tires can also cause premature wear to the bottom of the forks. Worn forks jeopardize the lift truck's ability to lift and creates an unsafe work environment. ANSI/ITSDF* require replacing the forks when the heel is worn more than 10%. Routine fork inspections are needed to ensure your equipment is operating with safe forks. <p>*The American National Standards Institute and Industrial Truck Standards Development Foundation.</p>
3 Transmission Failure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many operators ride the inching pedal, which can cause expensive damage to the transmission. To prevent major component failure, only use the inching pedal when you are approaching a rack and want to apply the brakes while revving the engine (allowing the hydraulics to work at full speed). The brake pedal (middle) is used for regular stopping of the truck when the hydraulics are not in use. Contact your local Cat lift truck dealer for your complete operator training needs.
4 Impact Damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major components such as tires, wheels, body panels, forks, attachments and backrests suffer when lift trucks encounter impact to product and surroundings due to high travel speeds. In addition to assigning equipment to an operator, impact monitor, vehicle speed limiter and keyless access systems are available products to help reduce impact damage.



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