



SPECIAL REPORT

4 ESSENTIALS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE DECIDING ON A FORKLIFT OR REACH TRUCK

www.novaliftequipment.com



Introduction

Selecting the right forklift or reach truck is a pivotal decision that can dramatically impact the efficiency and safety of your operations. With numerous options available on the market, each boasting various features and capabilities, making an informed choice is crucial.

This whitepaper is designed to guide you through the critical considerations that every warehouse manager and business owner should evaluate before purchasing or renting a forklift or a reach truck.

In today's fast-paced business environment, the right equipment can provide a competitive edge, enhance productivity, and ensure the well-being of your team.

Whether you're expanding your fleet or replacing outdated machinery, understanding these essentials will empower you to make strategic decisions that align with your operational goals and budget constraints.

This whitepaper reveals the four essential elements you need to know when making your machinery decision.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#1. When Should You Rent vs. Buy a Forklift?

There are a lot of benefits of renting or buying a forklift. It just depends on what your priorities are for your business. If cutting down costs is a major concern, then renting may be the better option for you. Barring that, outright purchasing a forklift for your daily operations can also be highly advantageous. As the sole owner, you're the only one responsible for maintaining and repairing the forklift. Depending on how you look at it, that can be either a good or bad thing. There's no shortage of used forklifts for sale in Toronto but buying material handling equipment may not always be the most feasible option if you don't foresee yourself using it frequently enough.

Renting a Forklift

Several factors including cost, flexibility, usage frequency, and storage capacity need to be taken into consideration when it comes to forklift rentals in Toronto. Consider what you need the forklift for and how often you plan on using it.

Forklift rentals in Toronto are a great option if you only need it for a short period of time once in a while.

Benefits of Renting a Forklift

- **Save money.** Short-term forklift rentals in Toronto have a low upfront cost. Since you're only using it for a limited time, you can choose a flexible hourly or daily rental agreement based on your needs. You can opt to purchase an insurance plan in case something goes wrong with the forklift, but other than that, your payments will be relatively low.
- **Flexibility.** Renting a forklift gives you more flexibility in terms of make, model, and length of the rental period. Forklift dealers in Toronto can recommend which make and model you need for specific jobs.
- **Usage frequency.** If you only need the forklift for a few hours, days, or weeks, then it makes more sense to rent. This way, you get a chance to test out the forklift before deciding if you want to buy it.
- **No need for storage or maintenance.** Renting a forklift means you don't have to worry about storing it long-term and you're not responsible for maintaining or repairing it.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#1. When Should You Rent vs. Buy a Forklift?

Buying a Forklift

Buying a forklift is a whole different ball game than renting. It's a more permanent investment and responsibility on your part. Depending on its condition and age, it'll most likely depreciate in value over time, so you'll likely lose some money on future transactions and the upfront costs are higher than renting. Nonetheless, there are some perks.

Benefits of Buying a Forklift

- Convenience. That means you have access to it whenever you need it.
- Usage frequency. If you regularly use forklifts for your operations, then ownership is better option.
- Unlimited access and no rental agreement. Renting a forklift means that it has to be returned back to the dealer on time and in the same condition as before. Extending the rental period isn't always possible as there may be another customer in que waiting to rent the forklift after you. At that point, you have to return it or possibly pay an additional fee to extend the rental period. Owning a forklift means you can get total uninterrupted use out of it for as long as you want.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#2. Electric vs. Internal Combustion: Which Forklift Is Right for You?

There are a wide variety of forklifts available, each with its own unique advantages and disadvantages. When choosing the right forklift for your material handling needs, it's imperative that you take the forklift fuel option, engine, fuel type, capacity, and lift height into consideration.

Keep reading to learn the pros and cons of internal combustion (IC) or electric engines to determine which type is best suited for your business's needs.

Forklift Fuel Options to Consider When Buying a Forklift

The two primary forklift options are IC forklifts and electric forklifts. IC forklifts can run on different fuel sources, such as compressed natural gas, diesel, and liquid petroleum, but gasoline is the most common.

IC forklifts account for approximately 40% of the market and are typically used outdoors and are designed to operate in difficult terrain, work environments, and inclement weather.

Electric forklifts, which run on a rechargeable electric battery, are the most popular forklift option, capturing 60% of the market. Electric forklifts are usually used indoors, with many warehouses and plants using them to move pallets and other products.

Both IC and electric forklift have their advantages and challenges, which can make them ideal for different work environments.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#2. Electric vs. Internal Combustion: Which Forklift Is Right for You?

Electric Forklifts

Pros

- **Environmentally Friendly:** Electric forklifts use a lot less energy and generate less emissions than IC forklifts. Electric forklifts also don't generate dangerous emissions like carbon monoxide, as a result, they're safer for indoor use.
- **Reduced Long-Term Costs:** Electric forklifts have a higher upfront cost than IC forklifts do, but they can save you money over the long run.
- **Lower Noise Levels:** Because they run on electricity, they make less noise than a gas engine does. This makes them the ideal option if noise is a concern.
- **Enhanced Maneuverability:** Electric forklifts are also generally smaller than IC forklifts, which makes them easy to maneuver in tight spaces.

Cons

- **Long Recharge Time:** Electric batteries need to be recharged on a regular basis. And it can take up to 8 hours for some batteries to recharge and additional time for the battery to cool down. Depending on the battery and how it is used, one charge can last anywhere from 3-12 hours. To avoid costly down time, you may need to have multiple batteries and recharge them overnight.
- **Less Load Capacity:** Electric forklifts have around half the load capacity of an IC forklift. If your business requires heavy lifting, an electric forklift may not be the best option.
- **Battery Maintenance:** In addition to needing to be recharged on a regular basis, electric batteries also need to be cleaned and serviced to ensure they are operating at their peak function. On the other hand, unlike IC engines, electric batteries have fewer parts and fluids to maintain. Regularly servicing the battery should provide you with a few years of service.
- **Weatherproofing:** Electric forklifts are used mostly indoors, but they can be used outdoors. Since they run on electrical components, they don't perform well in poor weather conditions. That said, electric forklifts are designed to withstand light to moderate rain. Ask a forklift professional at NovaLift to check the IP code to ensure that it is safe to use outdoors.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#2. Electric vs. Internal Combustion: Which Forklift Is Right for You?

Internal Combustion Forklifts

Pros

- **Lower Cost:** The cost of an IC forklift can cost up to 20% less than an electric forklift. If budget is an issue, an IC forklift might be a great option.
- **Quick Refuelling:** From an empty tank to full, it takes a matter of minutes to refuel an IC forklift. That means less down time and the ability to use it day or night or for as long as you need.
- **Versatility:** IC forklifts have a higher load capacity and greater power, which means they are a lot more versatile than electric forklifts. IC forklifts are also known for handling high speeds, ramps, and longer runs. They can also be used in a wide variety of environments, applications, harsh weather, and uneven terrain.

Cons

- **Higher Maintenance:** IC forklifts have a lot more moving parts and fluids than an electric forklift. This results in more frequent maintenance and repairs.
- **Emissions:** IC forklifts release carbon monoxide, which is a dangerous air pollutant. While not ideal for indoor use, if they are used in an enclosed area, ensure there is sufficient ventilation.
- **Higher Fuel Costs:** It doesn't take long to refuel an IC forklift but the long-term costs for gasoline are going to be higher than the cost associated with recharging an electric battery.
- **Noise:** Because IC forklifts can be noisy, they are not the best choice for some work sites.



#3. Forklifts vs. Reach Trucks: What Is the Difference?

Forklifts are an integral part of warehouse management and material handling. But, since warehouses have limited space and can become more cramped with products, the best way to create additional room is to make aisles more narrow and taller.

This kind of layout can be problematic for regular forklifts, which are best suited for moving heavy objects with minimal heights. Another option is a reach truck. They're designed for lifting lighter materials and objects, reach much higher, and operate in tighter, narrower spaces.

What Are Forklifts?

When it comes to forklifts, the first thing people generally think of are counterbalance forklifts. These forklifts consist of forks in the front, a cab that houses the operator, a counterbalance in the rear, and tires that control steering.

The most well-known and versatile material handling equipment, counterbalance forklifts, are used extensively for lifting, moving, and stacking products, pallets or contained units. Different models of forklifts have various load capacities, but most can handle loads of up to 10,000 lbs.

What Are Reach Trucks?

A reach truck is smaller type of forklift with a narrower body, enhanced mobility and maneuverability, and higher height capacity, which makes them ideal for areas with tight, narrow aisles, such as a warehouse. Instead of a counterbalance, reach trucks have two outer legs that stabilize the load. The operator also usually sits sideways or perpendicular to the forks. Some reach trucks also come equipped with a camera, allowing the operator to see what's going on above their head.

Reach trucks are often used in applications such as narrow aisles, cold storage, long-load handling, and truck loading/unloading. Reach trucks usually accommodate smaller load capacities than most counterbalance forklifts. But they also provide much higher height capacity of up to 32 ft.

NovaLift Equipment provides both new and used reach trucks designed for use in the most challenging material handling and warehouse environments. Some of the reach truck brands we carry include Raymond, Yale, Toyota, Crown, and Hyster.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#3. Forklifts vs. Reach Trucks: What Is the Difference?

Differences Between Forklifts and Reach Trucks

While there is some functional overlap between reach trucks and forklifts, they also have unique features that make them more ideal for specific tasks.

- **Visibility:** Forklifts are front-facing and have limited visibility when moving large loads. Reach trucks are generally sideways-facing, providing a wider vision range.
- **Turn Radius:** Reach trucks have a much tighter turn radius than forklifts.
- **Lifting Height:** Forklifts are great for lifting heights of up to 20 ft., some reach trucks can lift loads higher than 40 ft.
- **Weight Capacity:** Forklifts and heavy-duty models can handle loads anywhere from 10,000 lbs. to more than 25,000 lbs. Most reach trucks have lift capacities of 3,000 to 5,000 lbs.
- **Power Sources:** Reach trucks, because they are mostly used indoors, are powered by a 36-volt battery. Forklifts use various power sources, including gasoline, diesel, and electric batteries.

How to Operate Reach Trucks?

Operating and stability considerations are largely the same for reach trucks and counterbalance forklifts, with some notable differences, including fork height.

1. **Bring Forks to Level Position:** Reach trucks have less forward and back tilt than counterbalance forklifts. The weight should be level, with no forward tilt applied. If tilt is used, it may be impossible to stack a tall load.
2. **Lift Load to the Correct Height:** Raise the load to the desired height, ensuring the upward path is clear of any obstacles.
3. **Drive Reach Truck Toward the Stack:** Drive the reach truck to the stack with the load fitting on the rack and reach truck legs stopping just short of the rack or bottom load. Once in position, apply the hand break.
4. **Position the Mast on the Rack Lower:** Carefully lower the load, making sure the forks are level and clear. Once the load is lowered, retract the mast completely. The mast should not be driven when extended. While loaded, the reach truck will behave like a counterbalance forklift and turn over.
5. **Reverse Away From the Stack:** Once the load is safely in place and the forks are free, check your surroundings and reverse out.
6. **Lower the Forks to the Travelling Position:** After the forks are around 15 centimeters, or 6 inches away from the stack, lower the forks to around 10 centimeters, or 4 inches, off the ground and apply rear tilt for travel.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#4. Effective Hacks to Improve Your Forklift's Lifespan

Forklifts are among the hardest working types of material handling equipment in any warehouse or distribution center. They're used for a wide variety of applications including stocking storage units and moving inventory of all sizes to different parts of your facility. Over time, forklifts can start to show signs of wear and tear, the severity of which depends largely on how well you take care of them. Considering the cost of replacing material handling equipment can be astronomical, proper forklift maintenance is crucial to managing your operational expenditures.

With that said, here are a few tips to help extend the lifespan of your forklifts.

Implement a Forklift Maintenance Schedule

Scheduling routine forklift maintenance checks ensure that you're always on track and that all components of your machines are fully functional and safe to use. Operators should perform thorough forklift parts and safety checks at the beginning and end of each shift or before commencing use. Use digital or paper spreadsheets to ensure that all forklift maintenance checks are up to date and to keep track of who is using your machines.

Replenish Fluid Levels

Check the fluid levels of your forklifts every couple of days to make sure they're optimal. Performing engine oil changes every three months doesn't just help extend the lifespan of your machines, but it also boosts the overall performance and functionality.

Inspect the Tires and Rims

With regular use, forklift tires can lose their treads, and rims can become corroded if they're not properly maintained. Every so often, the tires may need to be replaced or refilled with air if they're slightly deflated. This helps keep the bands intact and attached to the rims so they don't get damaged. Once a week, you should also measure the height of the tires to make sure that they're properly inflated at all times and prevent a possible blow-out.



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com

#4. Effective Hacks to Improve Your Forklift's Lifespan

Keep the Parts Well Lubricated

Over time, moving components on your forklift can become stiff and tight, especially if you work in predominantly cold climates. Stiff parts that grind against one another are more susceptible to breaking caused by friction. Replacing forklift parts is expensive and inconvenient. Regularly lubricating the joints that connect your forklift parts prevents them from stiffening up due to cold temperatures and other environmental conditions.

Provide Ongoing Forklift Operator Training

As operational safety standards are amended over time, it's important for businesses to keep up with these changes. To increase forklift functionality and safety standards in your facility, make sure that all of your operators are fully up to date on their training.

Don't Overload Your Forklift

Overloading your forklifts past the recommended load capacity could damage its internal mechanisms and cause it to tip over due to the excessive weight. It's also incredibly unsafe to unevenly stack heavy materials on one side. To keep your forklift operational for as long as possible and prevent on-the-job injuries, make sure to adhere to the recommended load capacity limits.

Use Professional Forklift Maintenance Services in Vaughan

As a leading forklift dealer in Concord and Vaughan, [NovaLift Equipment Inc.](#) is qualified to offer professional maintenance service. In addition to selling new and used forklifts, we also provide expert forklift maintenance and repair services and training in Vaughan.

[Contact us](#) today to learn more!



178 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit 3,
Concord, ON L4K 4B1
1-833-6682 (NOVA)-500
sales@novaliftequipment.com

www.novaliftequipment.com