Multi Directional Forklift

Used Side Loader Forklift Vancouver - Side loader forklifts are ideal for lifting long and heavy materials in narrow locations such as warehouse aisles, loading docks, lumber yards, etc. These forklifts are given their name by the way in which they load, and unload, material - from the side of the forklift rather than from the front, as with standard forklifts. Benefits of Side Loader Forklifts v Standard Forklifts It is common for forklifts that rely on the standard counterbalance design to potentially become unstable when unloading or loading heavy items. The side loader is capable of transporting dangerous loads such as piping and timber. Long loads such as timber, steel or pipes are more easily handled because the load is facing in the direction being traveled, reducing the overall width of the equipment and load. Side loaders gift the operator with an unobstructed view. This is often compromised on standard forklifts with the tines or front-carrying load design. Side loaders can access narrow aisles and tinier doorways with ease since loads are transported down the side of the machine instead of on the front as with a standard forklift. The load may have to be raised on regular forklifts to travel around obstacles that increase the chances of tipping over. A side loader forklift makes much of that maneuvering unnecessary. This means warehouse operations can manage in much smaller spaces with fewer modifications while also operating in a safer manner. 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. This feature allows the operator to match speed to a specific application. Types of Side Loader Forklifts Class 2 - Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks The Class 2 Electric Motor Narrow Aisle Trucks are where the side loader forklifts are classified. This classification, as the title description suggests, encompasses forklifts that operate in narrow aisles and are powered by an electrical source. These are popular in warehouses, covered loading docks and other facilities that use a narrow aisle configuration or require moving between narrow spaces and where long items such as laminates, carpet, bar stock, lumber and furniture are stocked. These machines are used for feeding machine tools and rack storage. 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. This allows increased efficiency and speed when moving, loading and unloading in narrow aisles. Dangerous internal combustion emissions are eliminated due to their electrical power use, making side loaders excellent for interior applications. 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 has two kinds of designs, sit down models or stand on models. Stand On Side Loader Forklifts Stand-on side loaders are often seen in interior locations. It consists of a platform area that is surrounded by controls and usually found in the middle of the machine. There are many advantages to the stand-on design. Stand-on side loaders don’t have an operator seat, allowing for a more streamlined cab design. This creates a forklift with a smaller footprint which is advantageous for traveling within confined locations. The operator also has increased visibility when operating in a standing position, especially when operating the forklift in reverse. In the stand up position, an operator can turn his whole body to view the rear of the truck when reversing direction whereas in a sit down position the operator must twist his back and neck to get a clear view behind. 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. Finally, the operator in a stand on forklift is able to

enter and exit the cab quicker than a sit down forklift which can increase workplace efficiency in some applications. Sit Down Side Loader Forklifts The sit-down side loader is more popular than standing loaders. Sit-down side loaders have a cab that is situated in the center of the machine. The difference that a sit down forklift has a raised platform with a seat facing the forklift's control panel. The advantages of a sit down side loader are mostly in operator comfort. The operator is able to control the forklift from a resting position which decreases operator fatigue which increases productivity. Customizable Features Customizable bed lengths are a feature and benefit of side loader forklifts. Popular for heavy and bulky items, the standard side loader has been designed to fit heavy and bulky loads. A sixty-inch extension upwards may be utilized for special jobs. However, when customizing a side loader feature such as the bed length, consideration must be given to the width of aisles at the relevant jobsite as guide rails and aisles may need adjusting to accommodate the extra sized forklift, which is likely to affect budget and productivity. Multidirectional abilities are one of the most popular features of these machines. These side loaders have crab steering which allows two wheels to operate independently from the others. This feature allows the side loader to move in all four directions by changing the direction of the wheels, allowing the forklift to move sideways into narrow storage aisles without making large, swing-out turns or multiple adjustments. Safety is increased with the tighter turning radius and damage is avoided to facilities and items. More efficiency is attained since there are less space and time needed to move around the job site. Several other features on side loader forklifts are often customized based on jobsite application. Tine length, mirrors, lights, lift mast heights and lift capacities are some of the custom options available. 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.