

# Forklift safety 101

Operating a forklift takes focus and care to keep everyone safe. Its tall, narrow cab makes it prone to tipping, so no matter your experience, a quick safety refresher is always worth it.

## Before you get behind the wheel

A pre-drive check is essential for safe operation:

- Inspect the forklift daily to ensure the horn, lights, brakes, and backup alarms work
- Check fluid and gas levels
- Document the forklift's condition
- Look for obstacles and watch for pedestrians
- Ensure tires are properly inflated and damage-free
- Verify pallets are stacked securely and safely
- Always wear your safety belt
- Never exceed the load limit

## Smart driving habits

Keep safety in mind while operating the forklift:

- Avoid sharp turns at high speeds
- Back out slowly, checking over your shoulder for hazards
- Use your horn and lights at corners, crossings, and before reversing
- Only raise or lower loads when stopped
- Never lift people unless using an approved platform
- Keep loads low to the ground for better stability



- Stay clear of the mast—don't place body parts between its uprights or outside the forklift frame while moving
- Maintain at least three forklift lengths of space between you and the vehicle ahead
- Park on flat surfaces, away from traffic