

Pallet Safety



Review the following pallet safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

PALLET RACKING

- Know pallet racking capacities for both the “pod” and shelf cross beams.
- Never overload pallet racking.
- Report damaged pallet racking cross beams and uprights.
- Do not attempt to fix or straighten damaged pallet racking components.
- Rack components with major dents or bends should be removed from service.
- Dents, bent components and other damage can reduce the racking capacity.
- Never climb pallet racking.
- Never stand on pallet racking shelves.
- Do not allow employees to work in pallet racking pods—stay out from beneath.
- Inspect pallet racking often for falling object hazards.
- Report falling object hazards to a supervisor immediately.
- Never use plywood as a shelf in pallet racking—it can transfer fire laterally through the rack.
- Bolt pallet rack uprights to the floor. Protect pallet rack uprights from damage.
- When using a ladder to access materials stored in pallet

racking, consider tying the ladder off.

- When working in an outdoors environment, use racking that is designed for outdoor use.
- Inspect outdoor pallet racking often for rust, corrosion and a stable base.
- When loading pallet racking, beware of the sprinkler heads within the rack.

PALLET LOADING & UNLOADING

- Since pallets are only six inches in height, employees must lift heavy loads that are low to the ground. This is a significant problem since the heaviest product is usually in the shortest stacks.
- Low racking can force employees to stoop and bend at the waist to access loads.
- Loads in bottom bins will require torso bending and stooping to reach packages under the rack, when the pallet stack quantity is lowered.
- Never stand on or work while standing on a pallet.
- Keep the load close to the body and walk around pallets—do not reach over them.
- Stack extra empty pallets on the pallet jack to elevate the bottom of the load.
- Raise the bottom level of racking so loads are at heights where torso bending is not necessary.

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