

Pallet rack safety

Introduction:

Pallet racks often support heavy loads. If the racks fail and the loads fall, there is potential to severely injure or kill an employee. That's why anyone who works around racking should take every precaution to ensure the safe operation and maintenance of pallet racks

Hazards to watch for:

- Forklifts that load racks may collide with them.
- Materials can fall through the back of the rack.
- Facilities with floor vibrations may find that materials will move into unstable positions.
- Racks may be overloaded past rated capacity.
- Unstable floors or walls.
- Cracks in concrete floors around anchors.
- Racks that are not anchored to the floor or wall.

Safe procedures:

- Only properly trained and qualified workers should install racking systems.
- Modifications should only be made by qualified individuals and should be in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Load heavier loaded pallets on lower levels of racking

- Racks should be inspected daily for:

- Minor dents.
 - Improper overhang of goods over pallets.
 - Pallets over beams indicating improper insertion of pallets into racking.
 - Damaged pallets.
 - Storage of improperly sized pallets.
 - Safety locks are in place on all horizontal beams.
- Ensure that loads are evenly distributed within the rack—front to back and side to side.
 - All forklift operators should be trained in the proper use and capacity of racking systems (See **Forklift safety 5-Minute Solution** for more details.)
 - Always report any forklift collision with a rack to a supervisor so a safety inspection can be conducted immediately.

In conclusion:

Pallet racks provide vital storage space in our facility. The keys to achieving the highest level of safety is using the right type of pallet rack, and then keeping that pallet rack in good condition.