

**Q: Should I clean my fork lift truck?**

**A:** Many fork lift trucks operate in a clean dry area and require very little cleaning, others are used in dusty or muddy conditions, these trucks require more attention.

Fork lift have chains, valves cylinders, and seals, all of which can be damaged by dirt of any description. Dirt can cause such components to deteriorate or fail and this leads to disruptive unscheduled maintenance and extra cost.

Fork Lifts that operate with or around corrosive materials will be subject to greater damage to these components as well as bodywork corrosion and damage to other unprotected components like fuel lines etc.

Keeping the truck clean will reduce the risk. However, inappropriate cleaning may make the problem worse. The main areas that need to be considered are detailed below.

1. **Do not** steam clean or power wash chains. The chains need to retain their lubrication. If they are cleaned care should be taken to ensure that the windscreen is not contaminated.
2. Bearings, seals, gaiters and anything electrical are not designed for close contact with high pressure or steam cleaning equipment. Keep nozzles a good distance away.
3. The sidewalls of pneumatic tyres can be damaged or weakened by high pressure water especially if it is heated. Strong soaps may also cause damage.
4. Substances that may be impossible to remove once hard or set, such as cement, and corrosive substances, such as salt, should be washed off as soon as possible after contact has been made.

If in any doubt consult the truck manufacturer for advice.