

LP Gas vs. Electric vs. Diesel-powered Forklifts

Which is right for your applications?



Diesel Forklifts

Suitable for:

Outside use. The best option if it will be used to transfer items from one site location to another. They are also suited to container stuffing and moving goods into or out of external storage areas.

Pros

- ✓ A durable forklift for outdoor applications
- ✓ Powerful engines mean these forklifts perform better on gradients than alternatives
- ✓ The most suited to towing duties
- ✓ Built with more power than alternatives
- ✓ Better acceleration and increased lift speeds
- ✓ No recharging required meaning the forklift can be kept in use
- ✓ Cheaper than an electric forklift

Cons

- ✗ Diesel forklifts are noisy which can be off-putting for workers
- ✗ They produce exhaust fumes and harmful emissions causing a high carbon footprint

Electric Forklifts

Suitable for:

A wide range of indoor applications including lifting goods in and out of racking and moving loads at ground level around your site. They are suited to production environments and loading and unloading heavy goods vehicles.

Pros

- ✓ The most environmentally friendly type of forklift truck
- ✓ Cleaner, easier and quieter to operate than other forklift types
- ✓ Easier to manoeuvre than LP gas- and diesel-powered forklifts
- ✓ Re-charging an electric forklift's battery is generally cheaper than a tank of diesel or a gas bottle
- ✓ Cheaper to maintain than LP gas- and diesel-powered forklifts

Cons

- ✗ Electric forklifts are often the most expensive
- ✗ There is some downtime as they can't be used while the battery is being charged
- ✗ Not all electric forklifts are suitable for outdoor use due to the risk of wet weather
- ✗ If attachments are used, it might increase drain on the battery

LP Gas Forklifts

Suitable for:

Both inside and outside usage. These forklifts offer the power and performance necessary for more demanding work. Just like electric lift trucks, LP gas-powered forklifts are clean and quiet; yet do not require hours of recharging between shifts.

Pros

- ✓ Cheaper than alternatives
- ✓ Suitable for indoor and outdoor applications
- ✓ Limited downtime as there is no battery to re-charge
- ✓ Quieter and more environmentally friendly than diesel forklifts, but less so than electric forklifts
- ✓ Best rates of acceleration, travel and lift speeds

Cons

- ✗ Maintenance costs are higher than electric forklifts
- ✗ Gas tanks can reduce rear view visibility

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