

Prepare for the winter months:

Your safety checklist



1

Grit your operating areas

With the increased likelihood of icy conditions, your forklift will be more susceptible to accidents if operating areas haven't been properly gritted. Ensure you have enough grit before the winter months set in.

2

Protect your lift truck from the elements

If your lift truck doesn't have an enclosed cabin, make sure you invest in a forklift cover to protect your truck from harsh weather conditions.

3

Check for damage

Any issues that arise with your forklift could be amplified by bad weather. Ensure lift truck operators know what to look out for, and are checking the forklift for damage before using it.

4

Ensure you have a regular maintenance programme

A regular and thorough maintenance programme will keep your forklift running and operating efficiently even in treacherous conditions.

5

Monitor fluids

Any vehicle, in colder weather, will be exposed to the possibility of liquids becoming frozen. This can have an impact on the performance of the machine and cause expensive damage.

6

Prepare your tyres

Investing in tyre chains or studs are a great way to keep the forklift, and driver, safe in icy and snowy conditions.

7

Allow the forklift to warm up before use

Not allowing your forklift to warm up properly before use can increase wear and tear as well as fuel consumption. Ensure forklift operators are aware of how long the trucks should be left to warm up for.

8

Plan in advance

Ensure all lift truck operators are up to date with cold weather driving procedures and general forklift safety knowledge. It's also advisable to have a winter plan in place.

9

Drive with caution

Ensure lift truck operators are aware of safe driving speeds in winter conditions. Make sure they also know to be extra vigilant as visibility may be impaired.

10

Wrap up warm

Ensure lift truck operators have appropriate winter clothing including hats, gloves and hi-vis jackets. Being overly cold can impact responses and distract from the task at hand.