

## Rough Terrain Forklifts

There are essentially two classifications of lift trucks within the production industry, the rough terrain model and the industrial model. Rough terrain lift trucks appeared in the 1940's built primarily for use on irregular surfaces, ideal for lumberyards and construction sites, providing hauling muscle when there was no paved surface available.

Rough ground lift trucks typically employ an internal combustion engine with a battery for power. The engines can operate on propane, diesel or gasoline. A number of suppliers are playing with rough ground lift trucks that consume vegetable matter and run from ethanol. Substantial pneumatic tires with deep treads distinguish these lift trucks to allow them to grasp onto the roughest ground type without any slippage or sliding.

Many of the original models of rough ground forklifts had the capability to lift in excess of 1000 lbs, using blades that could slide underneath the item, lift it slightly and shift it to a different location. After more than ten years on the market, all terrain forklifts were augmented with additional hauling power, increasing the possible weight to more than 2000 lbs. In the 1960's telescoping booms were added, enabling them to stack materials much higher than in previous years. The telescoping model characteristic is a staple of nearly all rough terrain forklifts at the moment. Present designs are capable of managing well over 4000 lbs thanks to the continual enhancements through the years. Telescoping ability has also improved with some styles achieving a height of 35 feet. Worker safety has also become a focus with many rough terrain forklifts currently built are equipped with an enclosed cab for the driver, versus the older open air seating capacity.

The rough terrain lift trucks offered these days work equally as well on paved floors as on unpaved surfaces. These rough terrain forklifts are being marketed for their adaptability enabling organizations to transport parts from outside the plant to the inside or vice versa.