

## Rough Terrain Forklifts

There are in reality two distinctive classifications of lift trucks within the materials handling industry, the industrial model and the rough terrain model. Rough terrain lift trucks first arrived on the marketplace in the 1940's and were predominantly used on uneven roads, ideal for places where no covered roads were available, like construction sites and lumberyards.

Usually, the majority of rough terrain forklifts are run on a propane, diesel or gasoline powered internal combustion engines with a battery used for power. Many suppliers are experimenting with rough terrain forklifts that consume vegetable matter and run from ethanol. Huge pneumatic tires with deep treads typify these vehicles to permit them to grasp onto the roughest ground type without any misstep or shifting.

The most basic designs of rough terrain lift trucks were able to transport weights of up to 1000 lbs, with forks that could slide under the item, jack it a slight bit and then transfer it to another location. After some time on the market, all terrain vehicles had been given supplementary shipping power to about 2000 lbs capacity. In the 1960's telescoping booms were added, permitting them to stack resources much higher than in preceding years. The telescoping model feature is a staple of most rough terrain forklifts today. Present designs are capable of managing well over 4000 lbs thanks to the continuous improvements over time. Telescoping capability has also improved with some designs achieving a height of 35 feet. Operator safety has also become a focus with many all terrain forklifts currently built are outfitted with an enclosed cab for the operator, as opposed to the older open air seating capacity.

The all terrain lift trucks existing these days work equally as well on covered floors as on unpaved surfaces. These all terrain forklifts are being marketed for their versatility enabling establishments to transfer items from outside the plant to the inside or vice versa.