



Truck Loading

- ☛ All roofing companies use trucks to haul roofing materials to the job sites. The trucks come in a variety of sizes and can be loaded by hand or by using mechanical assistance, such as a forklift.

- ☛ The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires forklift operators to be trained.
 - In addition to training, OSHA requires that the forklift be equipped with overhead protection and back-up alarms, and that seat belts be used if the forklift is so equipped.
 - When traveling with a load, keep it as close to the ground as possible. If the load is too high, it can cause the forklift to tip.
 - Keep the speed of the forklift to a minimum when it is carrying a load.
 - Make sure the forklift is rated for the loads it will lift. Overloading will cause the forklift to tip.
 - Never lift or allow people to travel on the forks.

- ☛ When loading the truck by hand, be sure to use proper lifting techniques.
 - Stretch before lifting to limber up your muscles.
 - Get close to the load, lift with your legs, keep the natural curve in your lower back, and do not twist your back. Ask for help when the load is heavy or bulky.
 - When loads need to be carried over long distances, use mechanical devices such as carts or hand trucks.
 - If dragging something off of a truck, remember where the edge is and brace yourself to take the load.

- ☛ Before leaving the yard, make sure the drivers and those responsible for loading have met Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements.
 - Loads must be secured to prevent shifting or displacement.
 - After 25 miles of travel, the load must be checked to make sure it is still secure.
 - Propane bottles must be secured upright with the outflow valve plugged.
 - Placards are needed for more than 1000 pounds of a hazardous material, and the driver must have a commercial drivers license (CDL).
 - Remember to fill out the daily vehicle inspection report.
 - Make sure you have your shipping papers filled out correctly.

Truck Loading Training Tips

- If there is a loaded truck at the jobsite, use it to explain how it was loaded and how its contents were secured.
- Show employees where placards need to be placed on the trucks.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Once on the road, when is the driver first required to stop and check the load?
 - Why do you want to keep loads as low as possible on moving forklifts?