

Used forklift inspection tips: visual guide for forklift buyers

Be ready on auction day

Before you buy, view [forklift details](#) online. Then inspect these and other components in person on-site.



Mast – rails, rollers and chains

Check for cracks and rust. Ensure mast pins and lift chain anchor pins are securely in place.

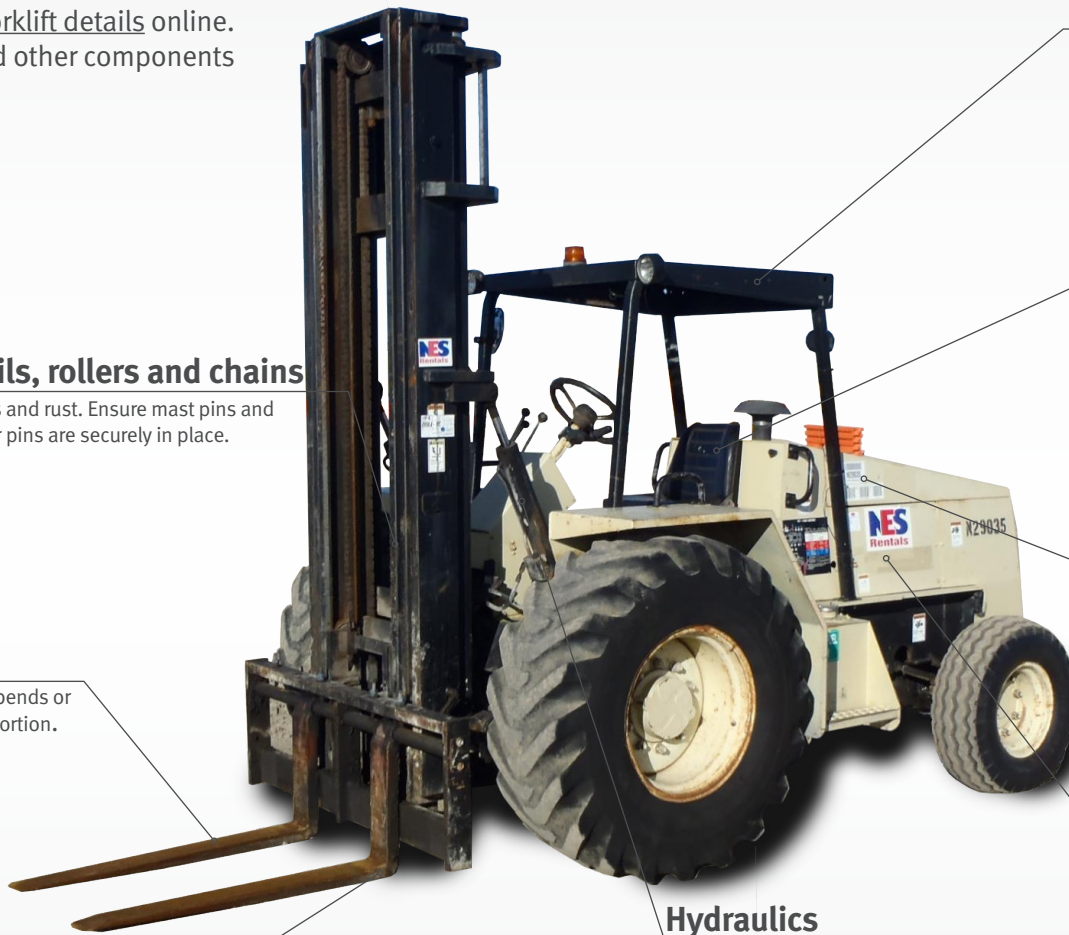
Forks

Check for cracks, bends or other types of distortion.



Fork heels

Measure width and depth of fork heels with fork caliper. Compare depth of heels to depth of fork shanks to determine amount of wear.



Frame, cowling and canopy

Walk around the forklift noting any structural damage to the forklift body, cowling or canopy supports.



Operation

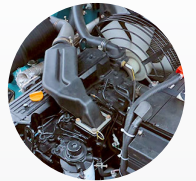
Before operating the forklift, ensure the operator's seat is secure and the operator's seatbelt is in good working condition. Test the responsiveness of steering and braking by driving the forklift in a stop-and-go fashion, reversing direction often. Ensure all controls and safety devices are in working order.

Load-rating placard

Check the load rating capacity placard to determine if the forklift's load capacity meets your requirements, or if you should consider buying a forklift with a higher load capacity.

Engine compartment

Check fluid levels, inspect air filter and test tightness and condition of belts. If you are inspecting an electric forklift, check that all battery connections are in working order.



Hydraulics

Check the side-shift cylinders, tilt cylinders and all other hydraulic components for any leaks or cracks. Check functionality of hydraulics by using the hydraulic levers to lift, lower, tilt and side shift loader arms.

This visual guide is not meant to replace the services of an experienced equipment inspector, operator or qualified mechanic. Unless you are very experienced and know what to look for when inspecting equipment, have a qualified individual complete the inspection on your behalf.