

## Aerial Lift Attachments

Aerial Lift Attachments - Aerial lifts can be utilized to accomplish many different duties done in hard to reach aerial spaces. A few of the odd jobs associated with this type of lift include performing regular maintenance on buildings with high ceilings, repairing phone and power lines, lifting heavy shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder might also be used for some of the aforementioned projects, although aerial lifts provide more safety and strength when correctly used.

There are a few distinctive designs of aerial lifts accessible, each being able to perform slightly unique jobs. Painters will sometimes use a scissor lift platform, which is able to be used to get in touch with the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial jacks use criss-cross braces to stretch and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

Bucket trucks and cherry pickers are another type of aerial lift. They possess a bucket platform on top of a long arm. As this arm unfolds, the attached platform rises. Lift trucks use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom lift trucks have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and hoists the platform. All of these aerial platform lifts require special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, training programs are on hand to help make certain the workforce meet occupational values for safety, system operation, inspection and maintenance and machine load capacities. Employees receive certification upon completion of the course and only OSHA qualified personnel should operate aerial lift trucks. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established rules to uphold safety and prevent injury while using aerial platform lifts. Common sense rules such as not using this machine to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial hoists are braced in order to hinder machine tipping are referred to within the guidelines.

Regrettably, statistics show that more than 20 operators pass away each year while operating aerial hoists and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these accidents are due to inappropriate tire bracing and the lift falling over; for that reason some of these deaths were preventable. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to prevent the device from toppling over.

Additional guidelines include marking the surrounding area of the machine in an obvious way to protect passers-by and to ensure they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is vital to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance among any utility cables and the aerial lift. Operators of this machinery are also highly recommended to always have on the proper security harness while up in the air.