

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safe Use of Jacks and Jack Stands



Some schools of thought relay that jacks are the easiest tool in the shop to use. Bad answer, especially if the operator isn't careful with its use. The thought is to put the jack under the vehicle or implement, lock the valve and start pumping. These are the folks who are more prone to having an injury. Every year there are many serious crushing accidents because the jacks weren't used properly. There are a few simple rules to follow with jack use that will help to avoid a possible serious accident. These are:

- Make sure that the jack you use has the rated capacity equal to or exceeds the load that you will be lifting.
 - Always make sure that the jack is setting on firm ground or a solid foundation.
 - To prevent slippage, use a wooden-block softener between the head of the jack and the load.
 - Set the jack perpendicular, at a right angle to the load.
 - If you think that the load has a chance of swinging to the side, install props or supports before doing any lifting.
 - Check to be sure that, assuming you are "jacking" on a hard surface floor, that it is substantial enough to hold the jack.
 - Before working under a raised load, install blocking to keep the load from accidentally falling.
 - Block at least one back wheel of the vehicle or implement before elevating it.
 - Keep jacks in good repair and well lubricated. Check the teeth for breaks or cracks and other defects. You should never drop or throw jacks.
- If you have a malfunction or defect in a jack, turn it in for repair. Check it thoroughly after the repair and before returning it to full service.
 - Do not raise the jack any higher than necessary.
 - If you are using a floor jack with a long handle, stand to the side while pumping the handle so that if it jumps or slips, it won't strike you.
 - Never straddle the jack handle.
 - If the load seems to be shifting while you are raising it, release the pressure, lower it and make the necessary adjustments to stabilize the load.
 - Remember to use jack stands to stabilize the load once you have it elevated.

SAFE USE OF JACK STANDS:

In business and the government, it is always mandatory to use jack stands. But in real life circumstances, it is so risky to avoid their use, that we shouldn't consider doing elevated repairs without them. Following are some rules or tips that we should keep in mind as we do elevated repairs with jack stands in use:

- When the vehicle or implement is raised and jack stands have been positioned, do not remove the hydraulic jack as it can offer added protection.
- Use jack stands that have been inspected and approved for your intended use.
- Check the jacks for cleanliness and lubrication.
- Check for broken, bent, twisted, cracked or distorted parts or housings or other evidence of mishandling.
- Always make sure that the weight is resting in the saddle and not on top of the stand.
- Do not exceed the approved weight capacity of the stands.
- Do not raise the jack stand any higher that is needed to perform the job.
- Always use jack stands in pairs.

**FALLING OBJECTS CAN BE BRUTAL - IF
YOU DON'T**

PROTECT YOUR NOODLE!

PROTECT YOUR BACK - USE

A JACK!!

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