



Winter Guide to looking after your Truck



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TOYOTA
MATERIAL HANDLING

Toyota Material Handling UK

Who we are

Toyota Material Handling UK is part of Toyota Industries Corporation, the global leader in material handling since 2001. With over 100 years combined experience between the Toyota and BT brands we are proud to be the world number 1 in producing innovative and high-quality materials handling equipment. Our vision is to offer services and solutions that help you get the most out of your equipment while leaving you to focus on what you do best – running your business.

What we offer

Whether you are looking to buy new, used or rent, we offer a complete range of trucks and warehouse equipment: hand pallet trucks, powered pallet trucks, powered stackers, order pickers, reach trucks, very narrow aisle trucks, towing tractors, electric counterbalance trucks, and engine-powered counterbalance trucks. Our products are suitable for a wide range of applications and environments such as cold store and wet areas, manufacturing, outdoors, production, quiet operations, retail & supermarkets, warehouses, and weighing.

We also provide industry leading solutions such as automation, service and maintenance, parts and accessories, and operator training.



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Preparing for the winter months

Before operating your truck during the winter months, it is critical to recognise any potential risks, such as snow and ice, wet and slippery weather, reduced visibility, and more. Always take the time to plan and prepare for the task at hand, such as gritting your operating areas and inspecting your tyres for the right pressure, quality and life.

It is also crucial that operators are well-protected from the elements. You must ensure that your operators are appropriately dressed for the cold, including windproof winter clothes, warm hats and gloves, and a high-visibility vest.

Such as your operators require extra attention throughout the cold months, your forklifts do as well. Like any other vehicle, forklifts should be equipped with the appropriate winter gear. This includes making sure winter tyres, pneumatic tyres, or tyres with chains are fitted to ensure traction and stability on slippery surfaces, weather-proof cabins (or a forklift cover), and functioning lighting are all included.



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Preparing for the winter months

- 1 Grit your operating areas**
If your forklift's operation surfaces haven't been adequately gritted, your forklift will be more susceptible to accidents due to the increased possibility of ice conditions. Before the winter months arrive, make sure you have enough grit.
- 2 Weather Protection**
If your truck doesn't have an enclosed cabin, make sure you invest in a cover to keep the truck and the operator safe from the weather. It is also essential to provide your operators with insulating, wind-proof and reflective clothing to keep them safe and warm. And always store your forklift in a secure and dry area when it is not in use.
- 3 Check for visible damage**
Keeping a close eye on your forklift throughout the winter months is critical, as harsh weather conditions can cause damage and result in accidents. Make sure your forklift is inspected for visible damage every time it is operated, as any problems could be aggravated by the extreme weather.
- 4 Prepare your tyres**
Investing in pneumatic tyres and/or tyres with chains are a great way to keep the forklift and driver safe in slippery conditions, as these tyres will guarantee traction and stability.
- 5 Lighting**
During the winter, the nights become darker and visibility diminishes. As a result, it is important to examine your truck's lighting. This is something to think about when buying a truck, but it's also straightforward to adjust on existing trucks.
- 6 Monitor fuel and fluid levels**
In colder temperatures, any vehicle's liquids will be at risk of freezing. Make sure to check fluids before driving to avoid the truck malfunctioning and resulting in costly damage.
- 7 Test the battery**
Before winter arrives, make sure you test your batteries with a load tester. Any battery that performs poorly on the test will struggle in the cold.
- 8 Keep a regular maintenance programme**
It is important to maintain a frequent and rigorous maintenance programme to keep your forklift running and performing efficiently, even in the harsh winter environments.
- 9 Plan in advance**
Make sure that all truck operators are trained on how to drive in cold, wet and slippery conditions and that they are aware of the hazards, driving procedures and fundamental forklift safety.

Winter care

Due to changes in the weather and harsher working environments during winter, accidents are much more likely to occur. When compared to operating a forklift in good weather, operating a forklift in the middle of the winter demands increased training and awareness.

Operators who are not qualified or skilled in driving a forklift in snow, ice, or freezing weather may face a variety of challenges that compromise forklift trucks' performance and safety.

The best way to ensure that business as usual is maintained and that your drivers remain safe is to ensure that your employees are aware and are trained to adapt their work routines to the challenges posed by the changing environment.

It is important to ensure your operators can recognise and identify winter hazards, such as:

- ✓ Cold weather
- ✓ Wet, icy and slippery conditions
- ✓ Reduced visibility

These risks can be mitigated by ensuring that both your operators and forklift trucks are fully protected and prepared for the winter.



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Winter care

- 1 Wrap-up warm**
Make sure operators wear the proper winter clothing, such as a hat, gloves, and a jacket. Being too cold can affect workers' reactions and cause them to lose focus. Where necessary, ensure operators use high-visibility clothing so that they can be seen even when visibility is impaired.
- 2 Use anti-freeze**
As well as helping prevent the water in your engine's cooling system from freezing, anti-freeze is an important component for the winter season because it protects your forklift's parts from rust and corrosion.
- 3 Allow the forklift to warm up properly**
Allowing the truck to warm up correctly is critical for both the engine and the hydraulics. Not allowing your forklift to warm up before operating it may result in increased wear and tear, as well as increased fuel consumption.
- 4 Identify high risk areas**
When the temperature drops below zero, ice and snow reduce the level of grip on the floor. As a result, it is critical to identify the high-risk areas that will be the most affected by weather conditions in order to reduce the likelihood of accidents. Car parks, entrances, slopes, and pathways are common high-risk areas.
- 5 Ensure there is sufficient visibility**
During winter, as nights get darker earlier and visibility becomes poorer, always be sure to check all the lights are working on your forklift. It is also important to ensure screens are kept clean and clear of any snow and dirt.
- 6 Complete pre-operational checks**
During the winter, your drivers should pay additional attention to completing the pre-op checks on the truck outlined in the operator's manual. There are sections of the truck that will have to work harder in extreme weather conditions, such as the battery, steering, tyres, and hydraulics, so it's best to undertake checks before use to guarantee the safety of the operator and the truck.
- 7 Report and record any issues**
Always ensure that after a thorough pre-operational inspection of the truck is complete, any issues are reported and recorded properly.
- 8 Drive with caution**
Always take note of the weather and adjust your driving habits to suit current the environment. Only drive as fast as the conditions will safely allow.
- 9 Take extra care of the batteries**
Even if forklifts are only operated indoors, batteries can still be affected by the cold weather as generally they are not heated very well or at all, so the cold can still harm the battery. In the winter, the simplest approach to deal with a cold battery and maintain productivity is to simply keep it warm. For this, a battery warmer can be used or it should be trickle charged to avoid it going flat.
- 10 Store equipment in a dry area**
When not in use, all equipment should be stored in a warm and dry area to avoid any issues relating to ice formation or harsh weather conditions damaging your fleet.

Post-winter care

When winter comes to an end, it is critical to thoroughly check your truck for any potential damage and schedule any maintenance and servicing required to get your truck back up to scratch, whether it be mechanical or aesthetical work that is needed. This is to ensure no damage has been caused to the truck's performance or bodywork during the winter months that could put your operators in an unsafe work condition.

It is also important to remember that even though winter is over, it is still vital to follow the checks listed within this brochure on a regular basis throughout the year to make sure your trucks are kept in the best condition and your employees are safe when operating the trucks. At Toyota, we take care of all your service needs for the highest levels of operational performance and uptime.

Post-winter care

1 Clean your truck thoroughly

At the end of the winter months, always ensure there is a thorough clean of each truck to remove any snow, dirt and salt to prevent issues from rust and corrosion.

2 Schedule restorative maintenance

Make sure to carefully examine your truck to identify any potential damage caused by the harsh winter months and to schedule any restorative maintenance and servicing of your fleet

3 Keep track of any reported issues

If any issues have arisen and reported by the team through the winter months, make sure to keep a track of these issues so that they can be revisited and reviewed in preparation for the following year's winter months.

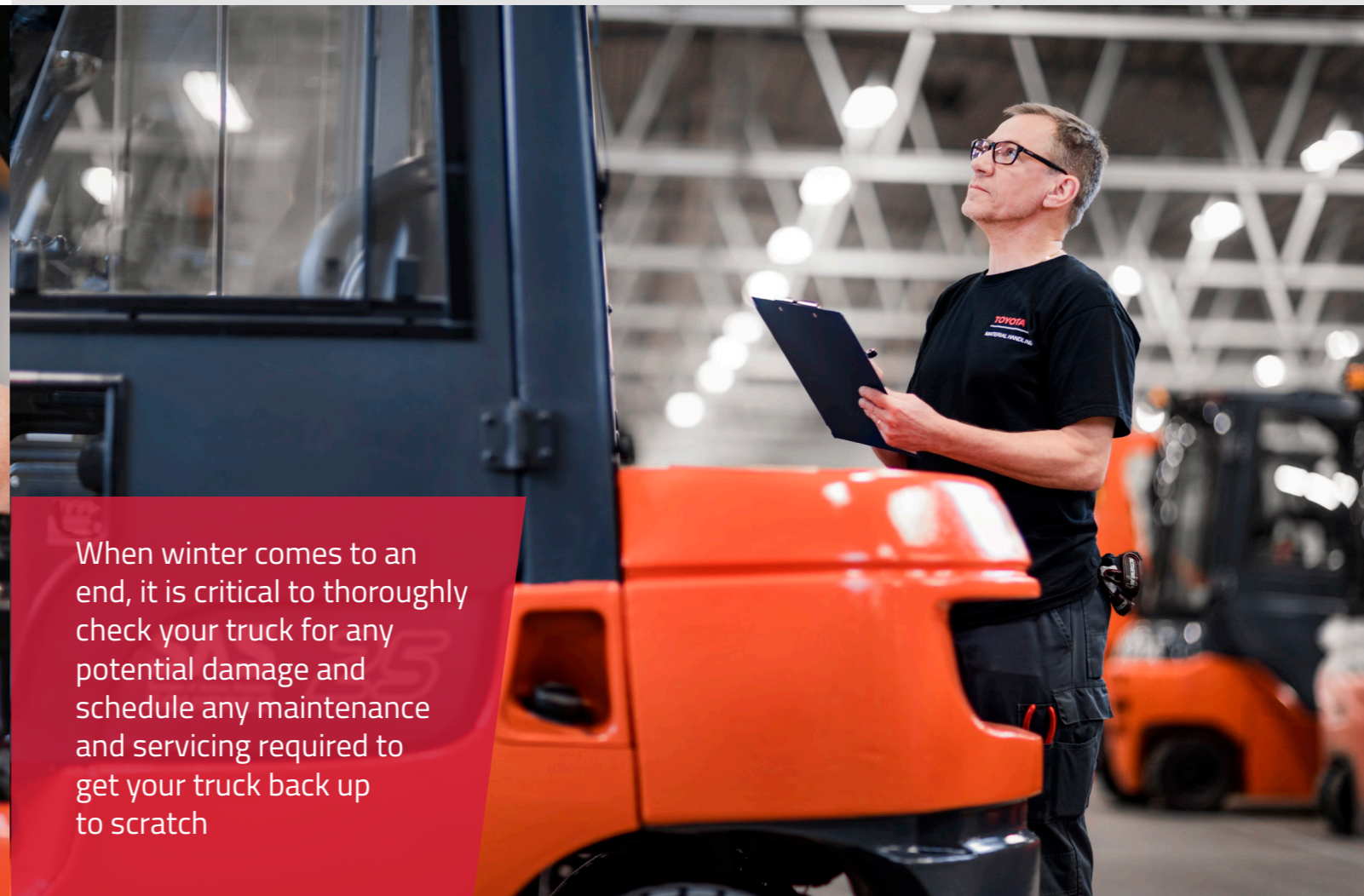
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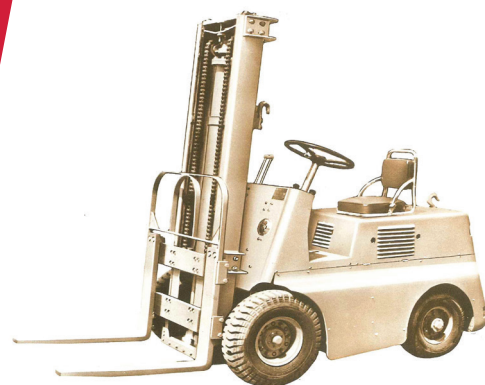
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A proud history

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Our approach is to provide you with services and solutions that help you to get the most out of your equipment, while allowing you to get on with what you do best – running your business.



The first Toyota counterbalance truck was produced in 1956.

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