



Using Jacks Safely

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

General Information

Hydraulic or handyman jacks are used regularly for repairs or maintenance. They are essential tools, but must be used with caution.



General Jack Use

- Set brakes on equipment.
- Chock wheels on equipment.
- Do not overload the capacity of the jack.
- Do not lift higher than necessary to complete task at hand.
- Place a block under the base of the jack if using on soft surfaces.
- Stop lifting and re-situate the jack if the load shifts.
- Place jack stands or blocks under equipment when lifting is complete.
- Do not do anything that may cause jack to slip or move.

Hydraulic Jacks

- Check oil level in the jack regularly.
- Check for oil leaks or cracks before each use.
- Lubricate handle linkage regularly.
- Remove the handle after lifting is complete.
- Do not drop, hit, or cause damage to the jack.

Handyman Jacks

- Handyman jack use should be avoided if possible.
- Make sure the base of the jack is steady and doesn't "kick out" when lifting.
- Block load regularly in case jack gives way.
- Stand to the side of the handle when lifting or lowering to avoid being hit in the head, face, and body.
- Both climbing pins should be in the locked position before starting the task at hand.



Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Photo Source: [Harbor Freight](#)

Photo Source: [Hi-Lift](#)