

IIPP Training Topic: Floor jacks and jack stand usage in our service depts.



Prior to using a floor jack for any operation in the shop, it should not be taken for granted that the operator understands the full scope of dangers that exist when lifting any portion of a vehicle. The purpose of this training is to discuss different types of jacks, identify hazards, outline safe practices, and remind employees of the potential for injury in the workplace.

IDENTIFICATION: Prior to using a floor jack, the operator should be familiar with the operating requirements of the jack. Some jacks have different ways to lift and lower. For instance some jacks have a handle that goes up and down to lift, where some are pneumatic and are operated by a button or lever to perform lifting operations. Different types of jacks typically have different requirements to lower as well. Some require twisting the handle one direction to lower and the other to close the release valve, while others require the handle to be locked in a certain position and secondary handles operated in order to lower. Make sure you are familiar with the jack you intend to use, its controls and requirements, and how to lower the jack **BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO USE IT.**



HAZARDS: The use of portable automotive lifting devices is subject to certain hazards that cannot be prevented by mechanical means, but only by the exercise of intelligence, care, and common sense. It is essential to have personnel involved in the use of these devices who are careful, competent, trained, and qualified in the safe operation of the equipment and its proper use. Examples of hazards are dropping tipping or slipping of motor vehicles or their components caused primarily by improperly securing loads, overloading, off-centered loads, use of lifting device on improper or uneven surfaces, and using the wrong type of equipment for the task. It is all our responsibility to monitor each other and be alert about use of floor jacks in the shop.



WARNING: Prior to lifting a vehicle, it is required that the vehicle is on level concrete floor. Uneven floors, asphalt, or dirt should be avoided as they tend to shift and cannot properly distribute the weight of the vehicle. Before lifting a vehicle it is recommended that you know the safe lifting points specified by the manufacturer. If you are uncertain of where to lift a vehicle, consult your service manager and discuss the lifting operation. If you attempt to lift a vehicle without using safe practices, the vehicle could fall and injure you or it could become damaged as a result of falling. Most of our use of floor jacks in our shops is for removal of wheels. If removing the wheels is intended, it will be necessary to employ the use of jack stands to hold the full weight of the vehicle while the wheels are off.

NEVER RELY ON A JACK TO HOLD THE WEIGHT OF THE VEHICLE!!!

We cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to not rely on a floor jack to hold the full weight of a vehicle for any period of time. The use of jack stands is the preferred method of supporting the weight of the vehicle. Jacks were designed for the lifting portion of the work, jack stands are designed to hold the weight for any period of time. It may be slightly more work, but use of jack stands could save you from severe injuries.

In 2012, there were 74 people killed by vehicles falling and crushing them -source US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Use only stands that are rated equal to or greater than the jack and select stands adequate for supporting the vehicle. Using under-rated stands could result in the stand collapsing or breaking and lead to injury or vehicle damage.

BE SMART ABOUT FLOOR JACK LIFTING. PROTECT YOURSELF!



Safe practices: With the jack in position under the lift point, close the release valve. Pump jack handle until it contacts lift point. Raise the weight slightly. If you want to ensure that the jack will not slip, a sound practice is to give the jack handle a firm side to side wiggle. If the jack is going to slip, it will do so now.



If the jack does slip, find another suitable and safe lifting point with a lower risk of slippage. Ensuring that the jack will not slip will prevent injuries and vehicle damage.

When a safe lifting point is selected, proceed to lift the jack so the load is at the required working height. Never attempt to raise the jack beyond its elevator arms or max height stops. Lift heights differ from model to model. If your jack is all the way up and the load is not lifted, select another lifting point.

Once the load is lifted to the working height, place jack stands properly and release some of the load off the floor jack so that the stand is now supporting most of the load. Perform services required and reverse the order to lower the vehicle. It is best to lower vehicles slowly whenever possible.

NEVER USE A JACK WITH A TWISTED FRAME! REPORT TO YOUR SERVICE MANAGER OR FACILITY MANAGER AND REMOVE FROM USE!

This floor jack training is presented to help you have a safe work environment and to assist in your facility having a zero injury rate. The TAP family thanks you for your attention to the presentation. Please discuss with your staff. Have a safe day!