

Liftgate Guidelines

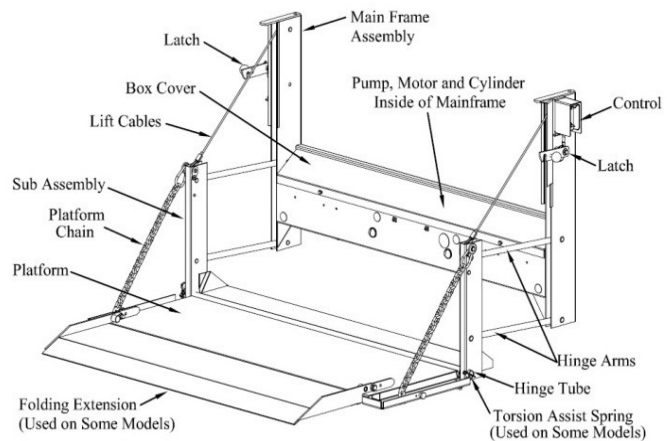
Liftgates are used on a truck, trailer, or van to raise and lower items. Follow these guidelines to ensure the safe use of the liftgates.

- Always follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- Some manufacturers do not allow anyone to ride the lift.
- When not being used as a lifting device, the liftgate should be positioned flat on the ground or in the stowed and latched position.
- Do not leave the liftgate halfway up as a step to go in and out of a truck. The preferred method to go in and out is by the stairs on the side of the vehicle.
- Close and lock the liftgate when not in use.
- Never ride the liftgate when the vehicle is in motion. Do not move the vehicle unless the liftgate is closed and in a latched position.
- Always follow maintenance and service recommendations.



Readying the Liftgate

- Truck or trailer should be parked and as level as possible.
- Only people familiar with liftgate operation should be authorized to operate the equipment.
- Read manufacturer's instructions on how to operate the controls of the specific liftgate being used. It may be necessary to practice operating the controls without a load.
- Before use, inspect the liftgate for wear and tear, including cables, chains, and other components.
- Do not use the liftgate if any problems are discovered during the component check.



Moving the Liftgate

- Call out to let people know anytime the liftgate is moving. Ensure the space below the liftgate and between the platform and truck body is clear.
- Keep hands and feet clear of all pinch points.
- Keep the working area clear of people.
- Stand to the side of the vehicle as the liftgate comes down.



Managing the Load

- Do not lift or lower loads greater than the rated capacity of the liftgate.
- Center the load on the gate, and control it with brakes, wheel chocks, sand bags, or wedges.
- If the manufacturer permits people to ride the liftgate, they should position themselves so a shifting load will not harm them or knock them off the liftgate.

Additional Precautions

- Wear reflective, high-visibility vests when in traffic areas.
- Use safety cones, pylons, or stanchions to block lanes and create a safe working space.
- Use truck flashers, safety lights, or other means of illumination to mark off the edges of the liftgate. After dark, provide illumination for and around the liftgate if it is not equipped with safety lights.
- Be cautious during wet conditions as the liftgate may become slippery.