

Improper Use of Jacks

Workers doing vehicle repair are frequently injured or killed by improper use of jacks and neglecting to use blocking while working underneath vehicles or equipment.

A variety of jacks are available on the market - hydraulic, screw-type, scissor and lever. These devices are for lifting and lowering, not holding while work takes place. They are only to be used until the load has been securely set on timber blocks or metal stands.

A second jack is not a safe substitute for proper blocking.

Note that some jack stands have failed and that the safe loading should be considered half of the manufacturer's rated amount.

Employers and Supervisors

- Ensure workers are advised of the proper procedures for working under vehicles or equipment, including the need for proper blocking.
- Ensure workers follow these procedures.

Workers

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's lifting rating for each jack and jack stand.
- Never work under a vehicle with only jacks as supports.

Occupational Health and Safety
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