

Run these checks every time you use a vehicle lift. Use this sheet with your lift's operation manual and the vehicle manufacturer's instructions. Some checks apply only to certain lift types. If anything here differs from your manual, follow the manual.

Never work under a vehicle held only by hydraulic or air pressure. Lower the lift onto its mechanical safety locks before anyone goes underneath.

1 Daily pre-use checks

- ☐ Clear the lift area of tools, hoses, drain pans, fluids and debris.
- ☐ Inspect cables, chains, hoses and fittings for fraying, kinks, wear or leaks.
- ☐ Check pads, adapters, runways, ramps and platforms for cracks, damage or missing parts.
- ☐ Confirm the safety devices on your lift, such as locks, arm restraints, wheel stops or latches, engage and release properly.
- ☐ Make a short test raise with no vehicle and check that the safety locks engage evenly.
- ☐ Look for cracked concrete, loose anchors or damage around the lift base.
- ☐ Confirm warning labels are readable and the operation manual is on hand.
- ☐ **Found a problem?** Tag the lift out of service until it is repaired.

2 Before lifting

- ☐ Confirm the vehicle weight is within the lift's rated capacity in your manual.
- ☐ If your lift contacts the frame or body, use the vehicle manufacturer's recommended lifting points (owner's manual or ALI Lifting Point Guide).
- ☐ Position the vehicle so its center of gravity sits where your manual specifies. Many vehicles are heavier at one end.
- ☐ Use only pads and adapters approved for your lift. Never use wood blocks, bricks or makeshift supports.
- ☐ Make sure nobody is in the vehicle and that doors, hood and trunk are closed.
- ☐ On drive-on lifts, set the parking brake and chock the wheels.
- ☐ Raise until the tires just clear the floor, stop and recheck every contact point.
- ☐ Rock the vehicle firmly at one end. If it shifts, lower it and reset before going higher.

3 At working height

- ☐ Lower onto the nearest safety lock at every lock point before working underneath.
- ☐ Never override, tape down or block the controls or safety devices.
- ☐ When removing heavy parts like transmissions, axles or fuel tanks, add tall safety stands. Removing weight shifts the center of gravity.
- ☐ Keep untrained people, children and pets out of the lift area.
- ☐ Never climb on the lift or the raised vehicle.
- ☐ Stop and lower the vehicle if you notice unusual noise, movement or leaks.

4 Before lowering

- ☐ Remove tools, stands, jacks and drain pans from under the vehicle and lift.
- ☐ Warn everyone nearby and make sure the area is clear.
- ☐ Stand at the controls, clear of the vehicle and lift, with a full view of the floor.
- ☐ Release the safety locks as your manual describes, then lower smoothly. Stop right away if it lowers unevenly or anything makes contact.

5 After use

- ☐ Lower the lift fully, or onto a safety lock if your manual allows parking at height.
- ☐ Move arms, ramps or other parts clear of the drive path where your lift has them.
- ☐ Drive off slowly and straight, with a spotter if visibility is limited.
- ☐ Clean up any drips and report any damage, noise or unusual movement.
- ☐ Turn off or disconnect power according to your shop's procedure.

Annual inspection

Under ANSI/ALI ALOIM, every vehicle lift should be inspected at least once a year by a qualified lift inspector. Keep a record of each inspection with your lift's manual. ALI Certified Lift Inspectors are listed at autolift.org.

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