

Tower Cranes

Tower Crane Rentals and Sales Minnesota - A popular machine within the materials handling family is the crane. Oftentimes, they are equipped with chains, wire ropes, a hoist rope or sheaves. These products allow cranes to hoist materials vertically and transport them horizontally. Shipping containers, giant crates, heavy machinery and other items can be transported efficiently. Freight Transportation Cranes are utilized to move items in terms of making loading and unloading easier and safer. The lifting capacity depends on the model. They provide a huge mechanical advantage and enable people to lift thousands of pounds of freight. Cranes are found in many industries and often seen on construction sites. Specified Use Small jib cranes are ideal for cramped environments such as workshops. Giant tower cranes are a different breed that is useful for high-rise construction. There is a crane perfectly suited for a variety of applications. They can help provide access to tight spaces. Floating crane models may be employed to salvage sunken marine items including ships or used in oil rigs. Tower Cranes A tower crane is a model that is fixed on a concrete slab to the ground. It is often seen attached to sides of structures as it provides excellent lifting and height capacity. Popular for building tall commercial buildings and residential structures, the base is mounted to the mast to create even further reach once extended. The mast is connected to the slewing unit of the crane that enables it to rotate. The long horizontal jib, the shorter counter-jib and the operator's cab are all found above the slewing portion. The long horizontal jib is the main crane component responsible for carrying the load. The counter-jib creates the counterweight and it may rely on concrete blocks. The jib handles the load to and from the center of the crane. Typically, the operator is found inside of a cab located on top of the tower that is attached to the turntable; however, it can be mounted on the jib alternatively. The operator may rely on a radio remote control apparatus from the ground. Electric motors are used to operate the lifting hook and control wire rope cables located within a sheaves system. The sizeable horizontal arm contains the cargo hook along with its' motor. The operator commonly works together with a rigger to safely hook and unhook loads. Hand signals are an important part of daily safety. The rigger dictates the lifting schedule for the crane and is responsible to ensure all loads and subsequent rigging is safe and reliable. Truck-Mounted Cranes Truck-mounted cranes feature two parts known as the carrier and the boom. These two pieces rely on a turntable to attach them and allow the upper portion to swing from side to side. Typically, modern hydraulic truck cranes feature single engines. The engine supplies power to both the undercarriage and the crane. Hydraulics are necessary for delivering power to the upper portion of the crane through the turntable located from the pump attached to the bottom portion. Earlier hydraulic crane trucks commonly had two engines. The first engine enabled the crane to travel down the road while the second engine controlled the hydraulic pump for the outriggers and jacks. Certain operators prefer the two-engine models due to the turntable leaks that commonly occur in newer design models. Cranes often need to travel on roads to different locations, eliminating the need for industrial transportation unless there are size and weight restrictions. Transportation falls under local laws. Generally, bigger cranes have trailers to help the load become distributed over many axles. There are some crane models that can be taken apart to accommodate particular requirements. A crane will often be followed by another truck containing the counterweights that are disassembled for travel. Outriggers & Stability Outriggers horizontally extend from the cranes' chassis to provide stability. Vertical stability is achieved by the outriggers to keep the machine level while completing hoisting and stationary applications. Specific crane truck models can slowly travel with a suspended load. Care is taken to ensure the load doesn't swing sideways from the direction of travel. The stiffness of the chassis suspension delivers most of the anti-tipping aspect. Moving counterweights are included in a variety of models to amplify stabilization further than what the outriggers offer. Some of the most stable loads are suspended loads since the weight of the crane serves as a counterweight. Safeguards are in place electronically to monitor the maximum safe loads for traveling speeds and stationary work. Overhead and Bridge Cranes An overhead crane is a kind of crane commonly

called a bridge crane. This apparatus consists of a crane with a horizontal beam and a hook-and-line mechanism that is designed to run along widely spaced rails. These cranes are similar to a gantry crane and are often found in long factory buildings and attach to rails that run down two long walls. Double beam or single beam construction model crane designs are available for overhead cranes, which may rely on complex box girder beam or regular steel beams. Certain overhead cranes have the ability to use a control pendant for operation. Locations requiring heavy lifting from ten tons and higher may use a double girder bridge. Higher system integrity and a lower deadweight may be delivered via the box girder style. Cargo can be lifted with a hoist and the trolley that can travel along the bridge along with the bridge component covered by the crane. The steel industry is familiar with overhead cranes throughout the manufacturing process. Steel is typically handled by an overhead crane until it leaves the factory as a finished piece. An overhead crane handles all kinds of steel including raw materials being poured to transporting finished oils and storing hot steel. Steel components are loaded by overhead crane and lifted onto trucks. Metal stampers and fabricators rely on this equipment daily as does the automobile industry to handle raw materials. Pulp & Paper Mills Pulp mill maintenance commonly relies on bridge cranes. They are responsible for removing items including heavy press rolls. Paper machines rely on bridge cranes during construction to install massive equipment including cast iron paper drying drums and other heavy apparatus. Loader Crane Powered electrically with an articulated arm attached to a truck or trailer, specific for loading and unloading, the loader crane has numerous joints to allow the machine to be folded into a small space between uses. These telescoping abilities are useful. Some models can even load or stow themselves on their own without any operator intervention. The operator needs to move around the vehicle for viewing access to the load. Hydraulic controls that are mounted on the crane may work with a portable cabled control system and a radio-linked system. Gantry Crane A gantry crane features a hoist located on a trolley running horizontally along rails, often fitted on two beams or a single beam or in a fixed machinery house. The crane frame is supported on a gantry system with equalized beams and wheels that run on the gantry rail, usually perpendicular to the trolley travel direction. The gantry cranes are available in numerous sizes. Some models can move extremely heavy loads for industrial and shipyard applications.