

Loading Dock Safety



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By Team Safesite

Loading Dock Risks

Employees who work on loading docks face constant safety issues. Dock workers must not only be careful about what they are doing, but they must also be aware of others working around them, particularly of co-workers using various forms of material-handling equipment.



[Image Source: Wikipedia](#)

In This Meeting

Learn how to recognize and avoid hazards associated with loading docks

- **Loading Dock Best Practices**
- **Semi Trucks and Trailer Safety**
- **Dock Leveler / Cross Plate Safety**

Loading Dock Best Practices

Never “dock jump” — knee injury could result.

Never climb into a dock door as a fall could lead to serious injury.

Keep dock doors closed to prevent falls and increase security.



Loading Dock Best Practices

If dock doors must stay open for ventilation purposes, provide a guardrail system to prevent accidental fall.



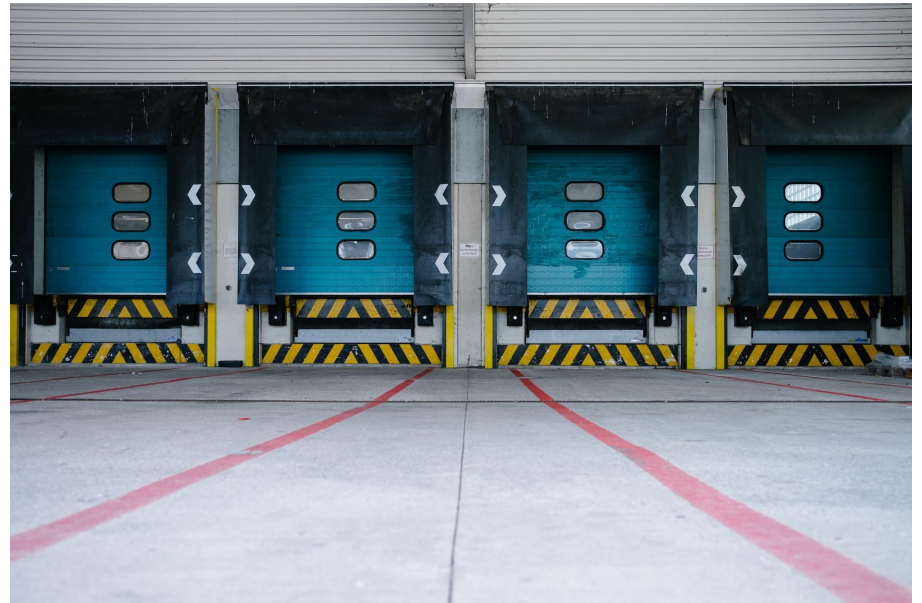
Loading Dock Best Practices

Keep dock floors dry – clean up spills or tracked rain water immediately.

Keep floors clear of trip hazards like trash, plastic strapping and shrink wrap.

Keep dock areas and stairs free of snow/ice.

Do not smoke on the loading dock.



Loading Dock Best Practices



If drivers enter the facility, keep an eye out for them – ensure their safety and security.

Make sure forklift spot lights function.

Make sure trailer lights function to light the insides of dark trailers.

Loading Dock Best Practices

When loading/offloading straight trucks, use a pallet jack instead of a forklift – straight trucks may not handle the weight of a forklift.



Dock Levelers / Cross Plates



Know the dock plate capacity.

Routinely inspect dock levelers for hazards.

Keep dock levelers adjusted.

Keep dock leveler wells clear of trash / waste

Dock Levelers / Cross Plates

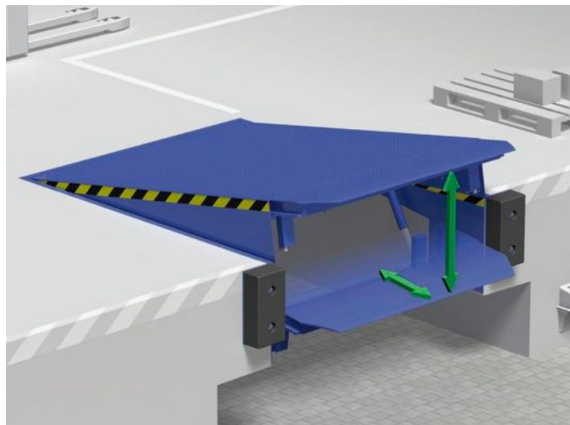
When a trailer is backed into position, the dock leveler must cross completely into the trailer.



Dock Levelers / Cross Plates

Never work beneath a raised dock leveler without blocking and bracing it.

Return dock levelers to the cradle before allowing the trailer / truck to leave.



[Image Source](#)

Semi Trucks and Trailers

Semi trucks and trailers can “creep” forward when forklifts are moving in and out.

Always chock tires of semi trailers.



Semi Trucks and Trailers

When a trailer is dropped (the tractor has left) always use a kingpin plate jack stand.

Kingpin plate jack stands, combined with the trailer landing legs, prevent the trailer from tipping forward during loading / offloading.



[Image Source: Aldon Co.](#)

Semi Trucks and Trailers

Inspect the trailer floor before moving out on it with a forklift.

Pedestrians are not allowed in trailers during forklift unloading.



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