

[Cherrypickers Guide](#)

The Cherrypicker's Guide: A Comprehensive Handbook for Safe and Efficient Aerial Work

Are you tired of ladders feeling precarious and insufficient for reaching those hard-to-access areas? Do you need a reliable and safe method to perform maintenance, repairs, or inspections at height? Then you've come to the right place! This comprehensive cherrypickers guide will equip you with the knowledge and understanding needed to safely and efficiently operate a cherry picker, also known as an aerial work platform (AWP). We'll cover everything from choosing the right machine for the job to understanding safety regulations and maintenance procedures. Let's get started!

Understanding Different Types of Cherry Pickers

Before you even think about climbing into a cherry picker, understanding the various types available is crucial. Choosing the wrong machine can lead to inefficiency, and worse, accidents. Here's a breakdown of the common types:

Articulated Boom Lifts: These are incredibly versatile, featuring a knuckle-jointed boom that allows for significant reach and maneuverability, especially in tight spaces. They're excellent for reaching over obstacles and working around corners.

Telescopic Boom Lifts: These boast a straight boom that extends vertically, ideal for reaching high points directly above the base of the machine. They're often preferred for straightforward lifts.

Scissor Lifts: These are characterized by their scissor-like mechanism that raises the platform vertically. They're generally lower reaching than boom lifts but offer excellent stability and are perfect for indoor work or level ground.

Vertical Mast Lifts: Similar to scissor lifts but with a single vertical mast, these are compact and suited for low-level access in confined spaces.

Choosing the right type depends on the job's specific requirements, including the working height, reach, terrain, and the presence of obstacles. Always consider these factors before making a selection.

Pre-Operation Checklist: Safety First!

Safety should always be your top priority when operating a cherry picker. Before you even turn the ignition, follow this crucial pre-operation checklist:

1. **Inspection:** Thoroughly inspect the cherry picker for any visible damage, leaks, or loose parts. Pay close attention to the tires, hydraulics, and safety features.
2. **Ground Conditions:** Ensure the ground is level and stable. Avoid operating on soft ground, slopes, or uneven surfaces.
3. **Clearance:** Check for overhead power lines, trees, or other obstructions that could interfere with the operation of the cherry picker. Maintain a safe distance from all hazards.
4. **Outriggers:** Extend the outriggers fully and ensure they are firmly planted on the ground before elevating the platform. This provides essential stability.
5. **Safety Harness:** Always wear a properly fitted safety harness and attach it to the designated anchor points on the platform.
6. **Emergency Procedures:** Familiarize yourself with the location of emergency shut-off switches and emergency procedures before starting work.

Neglecting even one of these steps could have serious consequences. Safety is non-negotiable when operating a cherry picker.

Operating a Cherry Picker: A Step-by-Step Guide

Once you've completed the pre-operation checklist, you can begin operating the cherry picker. Here's a step-by-step guide:

1. **Start-Up:** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for starting the engine and powering up the hydraulic system.
2. **Elevation:** Slowly and carefully raise the platform to the desired height. Avoid jerky movements.
3. **Movement:** Once at the desired height, carefully maneuver the platform to the exact location needed.
4. **Work:** Perform your tasks safely and efficiently while remaining aware of your surroundings.
5. **Lowering:** Gradually lower the platform to the ground once the work is complete.
6. **Shut-Down:** Properly shut down the machine according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Remember to always operate the cherry picker within its rated capacity and never exceed the maximum working height.

Maintenance and Regular Checks

Regular maintenance is essential for ensuring the safe and efficient operation of your cherry picker. This includes:

Daily Inspections: Conduct daily inspections of all components, paying special attention to hydraulic fluid levels, tire pressure, and safety features.

Scheduled Maintenance: Follow the manufacturer's recommended schedule for routine maintenance, including oil changes, filter replacements, and more.

Professional Servicing: Have a qualified technician perform regular professional servicing to identify and address potential problems before they become major issues.

Regular maintenance prevents costly repairs and, more importantly, safeguards against accidents.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Operating a cherry picker often involves adhering to specific legal and regulatory requirements. These can vary by location, so it's crucial to understand and comply with all applicable laws and regulations in your area. This often includes licensing requirements for operators and regular inspections of the equipment itself. Failure to comply can result in hefty fines and legal repercussions.

Conclusion

This cherrypickers guide provides a comprehensive overview of safe and efficient cherry picker operation. By understanding the different types of cherry pickers, following safety procedures, performing regular maintenance, and adhering to legal regulations, you can ensure a safe and productive working environment at height. Remember, safety should always be your top priority. Invest the time to properly understand and follow these guidelines - it's an investment in your safety and the safety of others.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a boom lift and a scissor lift? Boom lifts offer greater reach and maneuverability, while scissor lifts are more stable and suitable for level ground.
2. How often should I inspect my cherry picker? Daily inspections are recommended before each use, with more extensive servicing schedules outlined by the manufacturer.

3. Do I need a license to operate a cherry picker? Licensing requirements vary by location. Check your local regulations to determine if a license is required.
4. What should I do if I encounter a malfunction during operation? Immediately shut down the machine, and contact a qualified technician for assistance. Never attempt repairs yourself unless you are properly trained.
5. Where can I find further information on safety regulations for cherry pickers? Consult your local governing bodies and occupational safety and health organizations for specific regulations in your area.

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As the old saying goes, Find a penny, pick it up, and all day long you'll have good luck. Now Kenneth Bressett, senior editor of the Guide Book of United States Coins (the Red Book) and former president of the American Numismatic Association, has written the definitive reference to finding just how lucky you can be as a coin collector. From how to get started in the hobby to caring for your collection, with full explanations of grading standards, coin prices, and how to buy and sell, the Whitman Guide to Coin Collecting addresses everything clearly and with easy-to-follow detail. Squarely aimed at newcomers, this is a guide that covers all the different aspects of coin collecting-and in doing so brings a fun and potentially lucrative hobby home to readers everywhere. Book jacket.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Scott Travers, former vice president of the American Numismatic Association, was called the “preeminent consumer advocate in the numismatic field” by *The New York Times*. He is a contributor to all the leading coin publications and served as a coin valuation consultant to the Federal Trade Commission. He has been featured as a coin expert in *Barron's*, *Business Week*, *The WSJ*, *MSNBC* and *TODAY*.

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