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Manufacturer of Tracks and Tires

Solid Pneumatic vs. Cushion Press-On Band Forklift Tires



Solid pneumatic and cushion press-on band tires are two of the most widely-used types of forklift tires. When choosing which type of tires to use, it's important not to take the decision lightly. Keep in mind that it is very difficult to change the tires on your forklift from solid pneumatic to press-on band cushion tires if your machine originally came with one or the other. In order to do so, you will need to change the entire wheel hub of the machine. As such, if you purchase a machine with a certain tire type, it will likely use those types of tires for the duration of its lifespan. To determine which tires will be best suited to your application in the long-term, consult this side-by-side comparison of solid pneumatic vs. cushion press-on band forklift tires.

Solid Pneumatic Forklift Tires

As their name suggests, solid pneumatic tires are solid tires that pretty much mimic the shape, size, and overall appearance of pneumatic forklift tires. These tires are becoming increasingly popular for a number of reasons. For one thing, solid pneumatic tires offer a softer and smoother ride due to the enhanced shock absorption they provide. In addition, they also generally last longer than pneumatic tires—especially when used on uneven terrain—as they are flat-proof. For example, if the forklift had to be driven out onto a road or even a parking lot that was not completely flat, solid pneumatic forklift tires could handle the uneven terrain better and without incurring damage.

Cushion Press-On Band Forklift Tires

If you don’t plan on ever using your forklift outdoors and will exclusively operate it in extremely flat places, such as modern warehouses or terminals, press-on band forklift tires may be more advantageous. Press-on band forklift tires have a metal ring on the inside that is pressed onto the wheel—hence the name.

In environments that have a completely flat surface, you won’t necessarily require the enhanced shock absorption and smoother ride than solid pneumatic tires can offer. As such, press-on band forklift tires are often used. These tires can often be advantageous for operation on flat surfaces due to their wider profile. Because more rubber touches the ground, they will wear more slowly and last longer.

If you purchase a used forklift that has been auctioned off from a large warehouse, odds are that it will have cushion press-on band forklift tires. If you ultimately need to use the machine on uneven surfaces, you have two options. You can either change the entire wheel hub of the machine, or you can invest in a traction-style press-on band forklift tire that has a high-quality rubber compound and ample shock absorption.

Whether you want to outfit your machine with solid pneumatic or cushion press-on band forklift tires, McLaren industries can supply you with premium-brand tires you need. As a leader in the industry, we continue to innovate and perfect our products to provide tires with superior quality and optimum performance. To learn more about our high-quality forklift tires, contact us today at (800) 836-0040 or click here to request a quote.