# A screen shot of a computer Description automatically generatedPallet jack safety talk

Pallet jacks do not require a license to use; however, as with other material handling aids such as a forklift, they do have the ability to cause injury if used improperly or in an unsafe manner. Conversely, they can be very useful in a store setting to limit multiple trips or lifting of a heavy/large item being delivered or stocked. It can also reduce a multiple person job down to one operator.

There are a number of safety provisions to keep in mind when operating a pallet jack. These include:

* Keep feet from going underneath machine.
* Know the capacity limits of the pallet jack and do not exceed.
* When loading and unloading the pallet jack, practice proper lifting techniques.
* Always transport the load slowly.
* Always push the load, not pull.
* To avoid tipping the load, go in reverse when walking down an incline.
* Familiarize yourself with any pinch points on the equipment to avoid hand injury.

Before operating the pallet jack you should prepare for safe use of the equipment by making certain:

* The pallet jack is in proper working condition before use.
* You operate the equipment in a safe manner to prevent injury to yourself and others around you.
* Do not operate the pallet jack if the controls look damaged or are not working properly.
* Check the wheels before each use for damage or cracks which can cause issues while operating and increase instability in the load.

Know the path you will be taking with the pallet jack before you begin:

* Ensure the route you will be going down is free of obstruction such as boxes or protruding pallets. Also ensure there are no defects with the flooring that will interfere with safe transport of the load.
* If you must move a large load you are unable to see around, have another employee assist you with guidance.

Only use and keep pallets that are in good condition:

* All pallets should be stored in a dry area.
* Any pallets with loose or deteriorated boards should be discarded.****