

Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The description of an axle is a central shaft utilized for turning a gear or a wheel. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself can be connected to the wheels and revolve with them. In this situation, bushings or bearings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle may be connected to its surroundings and the wheels could in turn rotate around the axle. In this situation, a bushing or bearing is placed within the hole in the wheel to allow the gear or wheel to revolve all-around the axle.

If referring to trucks and cars, some references to the word axle co-occur in casual usage. Normally, the term means the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself rotates along with the wheel. It is normally bolted in fixed relation to it and known as an 'axle' or an 'axle shaft'. It is likewise true that the housing around it which is normally referred to as a casting is likewise called an 'axle' or at times an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the term refers to every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are connected to one another or they are not. Thus, even transverse pairs of wheels inside an independent suspension are frequently referred to as 'an axle.'

The axles are an essential part in a wheeled motor vehicle. The axle works in order to transmit driving torque to the wheel in a live-axle suspension system. The position of the wheels is maintained by the axles relative to one another and to the vehicle body. In this system the axles should also be able to support the weight of the motor vehicle plus whichever load. In a non-driving axle, like the front beam axle in several two-wheel drive light trucks and vans and in heavy-duty trucks, there would be no shaft. The axle in this situation works just as a steering component and as suspension. Various front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

The axle serves just to transmit driving torque to the wheels in some types of suspension systems. The position and angle of the wheel hubs is part of the functioning of the suspension system seen in the independent suspensions of new SUVs and on the front of several brand new light trucks and cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have fixed axle housing tubes. It could be fixed to the motor vehicle frame or body or likewise can be integral in a transaxle. The axle shafts then transmit driving torque to the wheels. The shafts in an independent suspension system are similar to a full floating axle system as in they do not support the vehicle weight.

Last of all, with regards to a vehicle, 'axle,' has a more vague classification. It means parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their mechanical connection kind to one another and the vehicle frame or body.