

# DLH ONLINE

## Drum and Barrel Handling Guide



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## Staying Safe When Handling Industrial Drums

Industrial drums of any size pose a significant workplace risk for anyone employed in warehousing or material handling occupations.

With the average 210 Litre/55-gallon drum weighing between 180-275 kg; manual handling, transporting, decanting or otherwise handling steel, paperboard (commonly called a fibre drum), or plastic drums is not only a potential safety hazard for employees but an inefficient method of accomplishing most industrial drum handling applications.

As with all potentially dangerous occupations, however, these risks can be managed through a combination of the appropriate equipment and proper safety procedures.

Safe handling of industrial drums also requires not only awareness but ongoing education around the hazards faced by those working with industrial drums. In this guide, we offer a quick overview of safe drum handling solutions.

### Risk Factors

Material handling situations all carry their own risk factors unique to each application which is why it is important to always handle drums as safely as possible. Taking the time to assess the challenges associated with any job is an essential first step in managing them. Some of the common safety hazards associated with industrial drum handling include:

- Heavy drums that can't be handled manually.
- The size and shape of industrial drums makes even the lightest or even empty drums unwieldy to handle manually.
- Confined spaces in which workers are unable to use forklifts or other material handling equipment
- Storage of drums in restricted spaces where worker range of motion is severely restricted.
- Unsafe floor conditions in which slipperiness, clutter or uneven surfaces can cause trips or falls.
- Half-filled drums that have the potential to shift their weight while in transport.
- Hazardous materials that can leak out of improperly sealed drums.
- High volumes of industrial drums, even when done safely, can lead to overexertion and musculoskeletal strain associated from manual handling



## Safe use of Drum Lifters

1. Before use - always read the manufacturers specific instructions for safe use.
2. Do not use to lift people.
3. Do not lift loads when there are people in the danger zone.
4. Do not use for operations other than those specified.
5. Drum lifters may be designed for specific types or sizes. Only use for the drums specified.
6. Ensure that the surface of the drum is clean and dry - Lubricants etc. may impair grip.
7. Do not attempt a lift until satisfied that the lifter is adequate and being used correctly
8. Do not subject the lifter to shock loads particularly once the load has been raised.
9. Be aware of the danger of unbalanced loads.
10. Take particular care when manipulating a drum to empty it. The position of the centre of gravity may change causing a lateral movement and sudden discharge of the contents and the lifter to release.
11. Ensure the drum is transported gently to avoid swaying.
12. Do not attempt to release the lifter until the drum is set down and stable.
13. The drum contents may be hazardous - Ensure safe practices and protections are in place before lifting.





## Potential Complications and Management Techniques

Improper handling of industrial drums can have a number of both long and short term consequences, including, death, disfigurement, chemical burns, musculoskeletal injuries and disorders related to overexertion. While different applications require different risk-reduction strategies, the following techniques are common to almost all work environments:

- **Environmental management:** A clean workspace is a safe workspace. Keep work areas free of dust and clutter. Make sure spaces are well-lit, and install ramps or other accessibility solutions as necessary.
- **Protective clothing:** Proper work gloves, headgear and footwear are essential when handling industrial drums. Ensure that any employees on the floor have access to appropriate protective clothing.
- **Hazardous material labelling:** Always read Manufacturers Safety Instructions and other product information. Use the recommended containment strategies in the event of a spill or accidental exposure.
- **Proper Equipment:** Ensure that workers are provided with and trained on equipment that enables them handle industrial drums safely and efficiently.

## Ergonomic Drum Handling Equipment



An important aspect of risk management is having the right equipment for the job and knowing how to use it properly.

DLH online offers a number of products designed to increase on-the-job safety when handling industrial drums.

Our equipment is designed specifically for all drum handling applications from occasional to very repetitive tasks including; transporting drums, loading or unloading pallets, weighing drums, or dumping and dispensing drums.

From drum-handling forklift attachments and overhead crane attachments to ergonomic drum transporters and self-propelled drum

rotators, we supply a full selection of equipment that

reduces the risks of injury associated with any drum handling application. Hopefully you found these drum handling safety tips useful.

Contact our sales team directly on: 0161 223 1990 or email [sales@dale-lifting.co.uk](mailto:sales@dale-lifting.co.uk) for help choosing the product that's right for you.

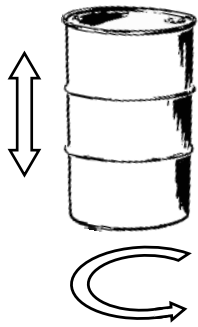
## Drum Lifters

For suspension from overhead lifting machines or forklift trucks

These are broadly split into three different types:

- 1) To grip the top of the drum.
- 2) To grip the ends of the drum.
- 3) To grip the side of the drum.

### 1. 1. Top Gripping Vertical Drum Lifters For Overhead Lifting



This type of lifter grips the top of the drum and is capable of lifting and lowering the drum.

The only possible manipulation is rotation about the vertical axis of the drum whilst suspended from a hook of a lifting machine or forklift hook attachment.

Examples of top gripping drum lifters  
(Click image to view more product information)



Camlok DA - DAF Low headroom drum clamps



Camlok DC500 quick drum clamps



Raptor Universal 2 leg Steel Drum Lifting Sling - DL500



Raptor Vertical Drum Clamps - DL500B



Raptor Vertical 2 Point Drum Lifter for 210 L drums - DL350



Raptor 3 point Vertical Drum Lifter for steel and plastic drums - DL360



Raptor Vertical Drum Sling DL500A



Raptor Adjustable Drum Lifter – For Steel or Plastic Drums - DL360SP

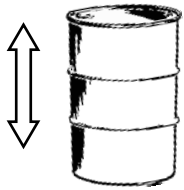


Lifts All Fast Barrel Handling Vacuum Lifter



Lifts All Fast Drum Gripper Lifter

## 1. 2. Top Gripping Fork Lift Drum Lifting Attachments



This type of lifter grips the top of the drum and is capable of lifting and lowering the drum.

The fully automatic rim grip is versatile and efficient for the movement of a wide variety of steel and plastic drums that are either open or closed topped. The hardened steel jaws lift from the rim of the drum thus allowing the safe movement of both new and damaged drums. A steadying profile bears against the side of the drum.

**Examples of Fork lift top gripping drum lifting attachments**  
(Click image to view more product information)



Invicta Fork Mounted Automatic Multi-Type Single Steel or Plastic Drum Rim Grip IRG-1. Double drum also available



Raptor Gator Grip Forklift Single Steel Drum Grabs DG360B



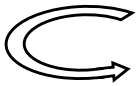
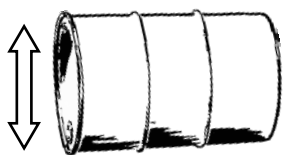
Raptor Gator Grip Forklift Double Poly Drum Grabs DG720A



Raptor Gator Grip Forklift Double Drum Grabs DG720B

More types available  
[Click Here](#) to view range.

## 2. 1. End Gripping Drum Lifters



This type of lifter grips the ends of the drum and is capable of lifting and lowering the drum.

The only possible manipulation is rotation about the horizontal axis of the drum whilst suspended from a hook of a lifting machine or forklift hook attachment.

**Examples of end gripping drum lifters**  
(Click image to view more product information)



Raptor Horizontal Manual Drum Tongs - DM500



Topal HF Semi-Automatic Horizontal Steel Drum Clamp

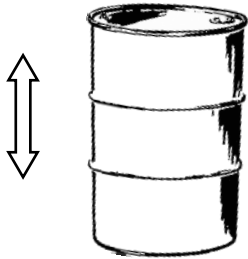


Raptor Semi-Automatic Horizontal Drum Tongs DN500



Pewag Grade 10 Drum or barrel sling - made to order. Sliding hooks on chain loop captive on top master link. Can be fitted with a chain shortener. Contact 0161 223 1990 for prices.

## 3. 1. Side Gripping Fork Lift Drum Lifter Attachments



The Fork Mounted Drum Lifter provides a simple yet effective method of moving steel drums in a safe and controlled manner which is aimed at the small to medium volume drum user. This type of lifter grips the side of the drum and is capable of only lifting and lowering the drum.

**Examples of side gripping rotating drum lifters**  
**(Click image to view more information)**



Raptor Slide-On  
Adjustable Poly  
Drum Grabs DG60



Raptor Slide-On  
Steel Double Drum  
Drum Grabs DG45

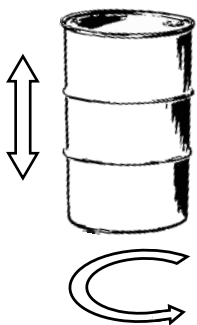


Raptor Slide-On Adjustable  
Poly Drum Grabs DG50



Raptor Slide-On Steel Single  
Drum Grabs DG10

## 3. 2. Side Gripping Overhead Drum Lifters



This type of vacuum lifter grips the side of the drum and is capable of high volume lifting and lowering.

The possible manipulations are rotation about the vertical axis of the drum whilst suspended from a hook of a lifting balancer hoist

**(Click image to view more information)**

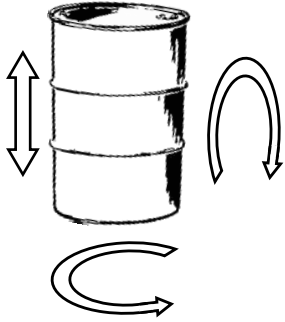
**Lifts All Vertical Drum Vacuum Lifter**

Ideal for repetitive handling operations





## 3.3. Side Gripping Drum Rotating Overhead Lifter Attachments



This type of lifter grips the side of the drum and is capable of lifting and lowering and rotating the drum.

The possible manipulations are rotation about the vertical axis of the drum whilst suspended from a hook of a lifting machine. Then, manually or through gearbox, upending the drum for discharging the contents or storing the drum.

**Examples of side gripping rotating drum lifters**  
(Click image to view more information)



Camlok DBT Drum Turning Grab



Raptor LG800 Geared drum lifters / rotator - Geared type



Raptor LM800 Vertical Drum Lifter / Rotator - Manual Type



Invicta 360 kg Crane Slung Drum Tilter with Crank Handle ICTL-1



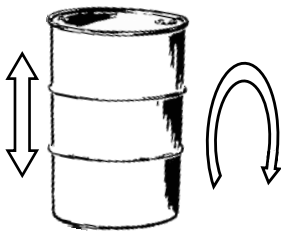
Invicta 360 kg Crane Slung Drum Tilter with Loop Chain ICTL-2

## Lifts All Vacuum Drum Lifting and Rotating Systems

Click on images to view more information with videos



## 3. 4. Side Gripping Forklift Drum Rotating Lifter Attachments



This type of lifter grips the side of the drum and is capable of lifting and lowering and rotating the drum.

The possible manipulations are manually or through gearbox, upending the drum for discharging the contents or storing the drum in the horizontal position.

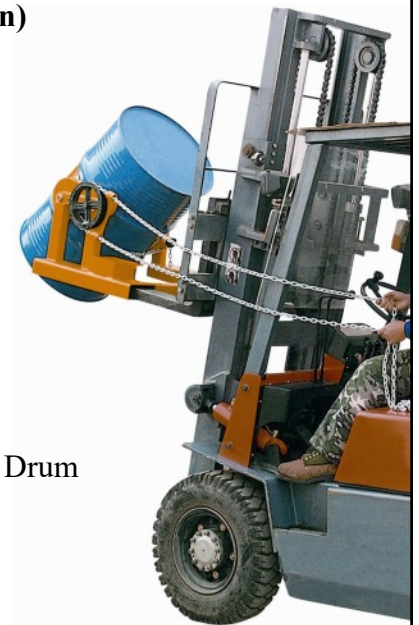
**Examples of side gripping rotating drum lifters**  
(Click image to view more product information)



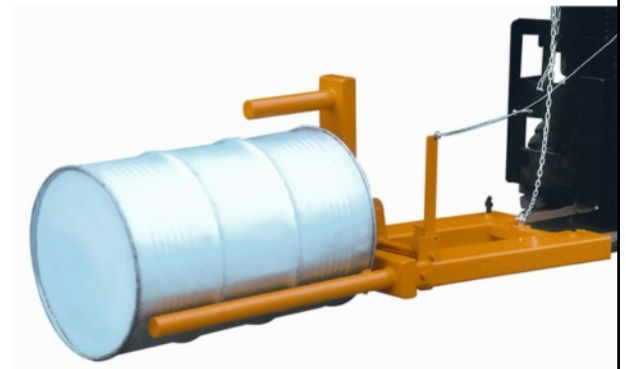
INVICTA 360 kg Fork Mounted Drum Tilter - Hand crank and loop chain operation - Model IDL



Raptor HK285A Forklift Rotating Drum Attachment



Raptor Drum Upender Positioner DR400 Series



## 4. DRUM HANDLING TRUCKS, TROLLEYS AND STANDS

This quick guide offers an overview of specific drum handling products available from DLH online. If you can't find the type you require, do please contact our sales team on 0161 223 1990 or by email to sales@dale-lifting.co.uk. We are always adding to our range and new products are continually being made available,

(Click image to view more product information)

### Drum Movers



Raptor Adjustable Height Drum Truck DE450 Series



Raptor DT250 Hydraulic Drum Truck



Raptor Hydraulic Pallet Truck For Steel Drums HJ365 Series



PL350 Raptor Drum Truck Pallet Loader

### Drum Caddies and Stands



Raptor Low Profile Drum Caddy DC500 Series



Raptor Mobile Drum Carrier and Dispenser HD80A Series



Raptor Steel Drum Dollies SD30 & SD55 Series



DSM200 Drum Handling Stand and Mover

### Drum De-Palletisers



Raptor Hydraulic Drum Truck DTW250



Raptor Drum Loader / Unloader - DTF450



Raptor Ride-Over-Pallet Drum Truck DTR250

### Drum High Lift Stackers



Raptor Hydraulic Drum Lifter WA30B Low Profile



Raptor Hydraulic Drum Stacker/Rotator DA40A



Raptor Ergonomic Drum Handler DT400 series



## 5. DLH ONLINE Contact Details

**DALE** Lifting and Handling Specialists  
Sole UK agents for the Lifts All System  
2 Kelbrook Road,  
Manchester, M11 2QA

Website: [dlhonline.co.uk](http://dlhonline.co.uk)

Tel: 0161 223 1990 - Email: [sales@dale-lifting.co.uk](mailto:sales@dale-lifting.co.uk)



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