Hoyer Lift: Use, Maintenance, Troubleshooting and Safety

Please use extreme caution when operating a Hoyer Lift. The operator of the hoyer lift should inspect the lift before each use. Check all bolts for tightness. Make certain boom and mast will not rotate. Check that caster wheels turn freely and that caster brakes can be engaged. Make certain that the base can be easily widened. Check that all lift parts are in place. Make certain all necessary items such as slings, chains, straps, wheelchair, etc. are ready. Never leave a patient unattended when they are in a hoyer lift. Be sure the wheelchair, bed, etc. are in the locked position before transferring patient into or out of them. For more complete instructions, please refer to the manufacturer’s manual in the sling package or refer to the instructions in this brochure.
**Use**

1. When a patient is in a bed, roll them on their side toward you. Place sling on bed with “Z” fold along side patient’s back.
2. Roll patient away from you onto their other side and pull sling flat and center it under patient. Reverse this procedure when removing the sling.
3. Position arm of hoyer lift over patient.
4. Attach hooks and adjust links to provide proper position and flex.
5. Before attempting to raise the patient, check to make sure that the hydraulic pressure release knob located near the pump handle is completely closed. Depending upon the type of lift being used, raise the patient by turning the handle clockwise (a clicking sound is normal) or by pumping the handle.
6. Once the patient has been raised in the lift, they can be transported to a wheelchair, bathroom, etc.
7. To put patient in a wheelchair, first be sure that the wheels are in the locked position.
8. Position base of lift around wheelchair so patient is above the wheelchair seat. Some lifts have adjustable bases. By pulling the lever on the U-shaped base, the base can then be widened or narrowed for more balance.
9. With one hand guiding the patient’s body, release handle or turn it counterclockwise not more than one full turn, and lower the patient into the wheelchair. The rate of lowering can be controlled by how far the knob is opened. A speed control with a maximum rate of descent is built into the unit.

**Maintenance and Washing**

1. The operator of the hoyer lift should inspect the lift before each use. Check all bolts for tightness. Make certain boom and mast will not rotate. Check that caster wheels turn freely and that caster brakes can be engaged. Make certain that the base can be easily widened. Check that all lift parts are in place. Make certain all necessary items such as slings, chains, straps, wheelchair, etc. are ready.
2. At least once a month, the lift should be thoroughly inspected by a person qualified to recognize any signs of wear, looseness of bolts or parts, freedom of pump operation and ease of base adjustment. Older style lifts should be checked more often to see if worn parts should be replaced or reconditioned. The nut at the bottom of the swivel bar hook and boom “U” should be checked for wear.
3. Replace any worn parts immediately.
4. Caution: Only hoyer lift parts are to be used on hoyer products.
5. Hoyer lift parts are not interchangeable with other manufacturers’ products.
6. Restraint straps with velcro closures are available.
7. To lubricate, put a drop of oil on the following points when lift is placed into service and every two months thereafter: top of mast, top of pump, swivel bar hook, pump handle hinge and caster axles.
8. Follow these guidelines exactly when washing slings: Machine wash warm or cold. Do not use bleach. Do not wash with other colors. Bars must be removed before washing.

**Note:** It is a common occurrence after a few hours of non-use for the boom and jack to lower with no weight suspended from the end of the boom. This occurrence does not indicate a faulty jack, but is a trait common to hydraulic equipment.
## Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handle mounting holes loosening or enlarging</td>
<td>Occurs because pivot point has not been periodically oiled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack lowers with patient suspended</td>
<td>Check to make sure the pressure release knob is completely closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Check valve is not sealing: Pump handle rapidly several times, then open pressure release knob. Repeat two or three times.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Release cartridge is defective: Lay jack on its side. Remove pressure release knob cartridge and clean or replace.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack fails to lift to full height</td>
<td>Air in oil under arm: Pump unit as far as it will go. Open pressure release knob and pull down on boom to lowest position. Repeat until lift raises to full height.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If above does not work, unit may be low on oil. Remove jack from lift, collapse ram and remove jack skirt. Remove socket screw (located on top of top cap) and put 1 ounce of #10 weight hydraulic oil in at a time until jack ram moves the proper distance.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Note: Proper amounts of oil for a jack when completely empty are: 7 ¾ for 12” stroke; 11 ½ ounces for a 17” stroke; 3 ¾ ounces for a 6” stroke; 12 ½ ounces for a 19” stroke.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil leaking from around piston</td>
<td>Tighten packing nut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil leaking around rim of top cap</td>
<td>If unit has been lying on its side for some time, there may be evidence of oil leaking. After use, seal should assume proper shape. If oil continues to leak, clamp jack base in with vise with unit vertical; remove top cap and replace quad ring located in top cap. Do not loosen or remove reservoir lube from base as this will break the seal around the base, causing loss of oil in unit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit will not lower</td>
<td>Lay jack on its side. Remove and clean release cartridge making sure small holes are cleaned out with pin or small diameter wire.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace release cartridge</td>
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Hoyer Lift

General Information

1. The Hoyer Master-Lift Jack is designed to be as maintenance and trouble-free as possible. Seals around the ram are of the permanent non-adjusting type. Seals around piston may be tightened with spanner wrench provided with each pump.

2. It is normal for a very light film of oil to be present on the piston rod and ram, but not to the point of dripping.

3. Do oil pivot points on handle and ram ends periodically.

4. Do wipe down unit if it gets wet.

5. Do apply a coat of appliance wax occasionally.

6. Do use jack to raise boom when lifting patient.

7. Do not lift up on end of boom to position for lifting patient as this causes air to be drawn in under ram, preventing jack from lifting when handle is pumped.

8. Do not press down hard on handle when bottom of stroke is reached.

Safety Precautions

Safe use of lift requires that you are familiar with its special features as well as your own capabilities.

1. Do examine lift prior to each use to ensure unit is in proper working condition.

2. Do ensure that the weight capacity of your lift is sufficient to meet your specific needs.

3. Do consult your health care professional or call the lift manufacturer if you encounter any problems or have any questions concerning the safe use of your lift.

4. Do not use as a hoist or winch with machinery or equipment (use only for non-ambulatory patients).

5. Do avoid tipping lift by keeping casters free from all obstacles. The base of the lift must be allowed to move freely.

6. Do not use lift caster brake while lifting, transferring or transporting a patient. Brakes are provided for parking purposes only when lift is not in use.

7. Do keep the center of gravity low when transporting a patient. Make sure that the patient is centered over the base as low as possible prior to transport.

8. Do contact your local contractor to remove threshold strips prior to transporting from room to room.

9. Do not transport a patient over door jams, high pile carpeting, rough surfaces or obstructions or down ramps. Place a hard surface such as plywood over deep shag carpeted areas.

10. Do not force the base of the lift into or against any obstructions which may cause one or more of the casters to be lifted from the floor.

11. Do not transport patient over rough surfaces out-of-doors (except when car-to-car transfers are necessary).

12. Do not install non-manufacturer parts, slings or accessories on a patient lift.

13. Do not attempt to repair or adjust the lift. Repairs should only be performed by authorized personnel.

14. Do not alter, add or attempt to modify any parts, assemblies or accessories of this product.