

FOUR-POST LIFTS

A Buyer's Guide.



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LET'S DIG IN

A well-equipped shop has the tools to get the job done quickly and efficiently. Often, that involves investing in shop equipment that decreases repair time, increases accuracy and allows technicians to do their job safer and more efficiently.

Four-post lifts help your shop realize these benefits, making them a great fit for many, from fleet maintenance garages to commercial repair operations to dealership bays. However, not all four-posts are created equal.

With multiple configurations and a bevy of accessories, it's important to know all your options and your shop's specific needs. In this guide, we will go over what to look for in a four-post platform lift and the key benefits a Forward Lift provides.

We'll cover:

- Benefits of four-post lifts
- Different lift configurations
- Cost vs. Value
- Different options

BENEFITS OF FOUR-POST LIFTS

In any shop environment, whether independent or franchise dealership, heavy duty or light, your lift must be able to handle the rigors of your day. You also need a lift that is technician friendly, and efficient...enter a four-post lift.

- **Simple Spotting.** Four-Post Lifts are very simple to load, allowing even your less experienced technicians to pull cars on and off with ease. They also reduce the need to crouch down to line up the pick-up points saving your tech's time, as well as their backs.
- **Quick Go.** Offer quick setup for undercarriage repairs.
- **Versatile with options for wheels-free service.** Can be used for wheel service when combined with wheels-free devices such as jacks or rolling bridges. They are also available in several configurations so you can choose the best lift for your shop. We will explore these options in depth over the next few pages.

CONFIGURATIONS: OPEN VS CLOSED

One major decision you'll need to make is between an open-front or closed-front design. Both have their advantages, and the choice usually comes down to how your techs prefer to work and what's most appropriate for your shop's flow. Here's what to consider:



CONFIGURATIONS: GENERAL SERVICE CLOSED FRONT FOUR-POST LIFTS

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General Service Upgrade. Adding accessories can transform a general purpose lift into a time saving, money producing machine capable of just about any job you throw at it.

- **Bolt on alignment** Converts a general service four-post lift into an alignment lift that's compatible with new alignment technology.
- **Rolling Bridges (often called jacks)** Allow you to increase your service opportunities by lifting a vehicle off the runways getting your wheels free.
- **Tech Lights** Create more visibility under the vehicle by adding light bars to the inner runway path.



CONFIGURATIONS: GENERAL SERVICE OPEN FRONT FOUR-POST LIFTS

Open front four-posts have grown in popularity, especially in the quick service market. With no front cross member, they allow for the technician to move in and out of the lift without ducking or crouching under runways. In high volume bays, such as quick lubes or tire rotation, open fronts can shine, giving easy access to the underside of the vehicle. Open fronts can be outfitted with the same accessories as closed fronts, but are not offered in high capacity heavy duty models, due to the lack of a front cross member for support.

General Service Upgrade. Because we design our open front four-post lifts to perform as if they have a solid beam cross member; we offer the same accessories to transform your lift as that of a general service four-post.

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Four-Post Lifts:

WHAT'S IMPORTANT



There are many decisions to make that are just as important as choosing between symmetrical or asymmetrical two-post lifts—including the opportunity to purchase a lift that's capable of both configurations, like several Forward Lift models. You need to consider your shop's space and configuration and a lift's features—including the manufacturer's support.

SIZES AND CAPACITY

- **What size lift will your shop support?**

Choosing the correct lift for your space is crucial. Choosing a lift that is physically too big may hinder your productivity, but a lift that is too small may not meet the requirements of your typical vehicles. So, what's the best lift for my shop? The way you answer this question is to think about your shop's physical space—as well as your shop's "typical" vehicle size.

Four-post lifts are typically rated by their maximum load. For instance, Forward Lift's most popular four-post lifts begin with a maximum rated capacity of 8,000 pounds and increase in capacity all the way up to 60,000 pounds. That's a huge range, so knowing your customers' typical vehicles will be of the utmost importance when selecting lifts. If the bulk of your business comes from smaller sports cars, you probably won't need to think beyond an 8,000- or 9,000-pound maximum. But if you're doing work on larger pick-ups or commercial trucks, you'll likely need to look at lifts that can handle weights well above that.

- **Lifts usually require more physical space as their maximum loads increase.**

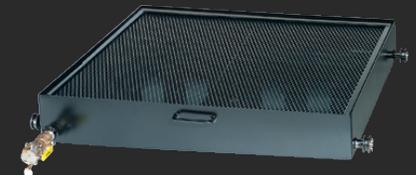
If you have smaller bays, you don't want to purchase a lift that's too big. Your techs productivity could be decreased if they must tiptoe around the space to avoid colliding with the lift or the vehicle.

- **Consider your shop's current floor plan.**

If you reconfigured it, could you get another bay out of the space? If so, you may want to consider multiple lifts to increase your efficiency and productivity. This could have a positive impact on both your revenue stream and your customer satisfaction.

ACCESSORIES:

Adding accessories can turn an already high efficiency lift into a monster for your shop. Options like inline air, rolling jacks, oil drain pans or light kits can decrease downtime and make life much easier on your technician.



WARRANTIES AND SUPPORT

No matter what you're buying, you want the manufacturer to stand behind its product and offer you support when you need it. This is especially important when it comes to a purchase as large as a four-post lift. When comparing manufacturers and their prices, pay close attention to how long they warrant their products and whether or not they offer local support. Having a support network in your local area will help keep your shop productivity up by limiting downtime when your lifts need to be serviced and/or repaired.

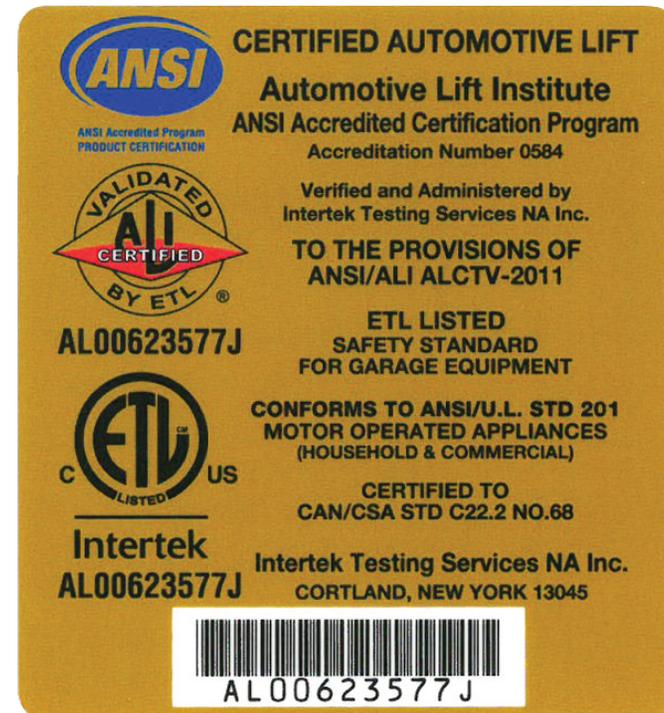
When your lift is the center of your service bay, it's also important to know where your replacement parts come from. Some replacement parts are cheaper than others but that can also mean they are of lesser quality. Cheap parts can cost you a lot more in the long run. We recommend always using original manufacturer parts to ensure the highest quality and return for your dollar.

Forward Lift offers 5 year structural steel/18 month parts/6 month labor warranty on all of our four-post lifts. And when it comes to service, you won't find a more dedicated customer experience team. We have skilled service support that's always quick to respond.

CERTIFICATION

Don't buy a lift that isn't certified by an independent third-party. The safety implications alone are enough to stay away from uncertified lifts. This doesn't even take into consideration the trustworthiness of your day-to-day operations.

Only buy lifts that are certified by the Automotive Lift Institute (ALI). The ALI Lift Certification Program is literally the gold standard in the industry. When you see the ALI's gold label, you know that an unbiased team has tested a lift for performance and safety—not to mention visited the manufacturer's production facility to ensure a safe, high-performing lift is made in a safe, high-performing environment.



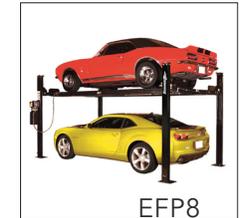
Look for the Gold Label on your lift. The ALI gold label is your guarantee that a lift has been independently proven to meet industry standards.

TWO-POST LIFTS FROM FORWARD LIFT

We currently offer eleven four-post lifts in eight different capacities to choose from.

CR/OR Series: The largest and most versatile group of four-posts offered by Forward. They range in capacity from 14,000 pounds all the way to a staggering 60,000 pounds. They are available in both closed and open front models. Some models even come from factory with alignment packages already installed.

EFP Series: The lowest capacity lifts in the Forward's four-post line-ups, they come in 2 sizes, 8,000 and 9,000 pounds. Very budget and user friendly, they are just as comfortable in a repair shop as they are in your home garage. Utilizing 110 volt to operate the power unit, they can be plugged into a standard outlet with at least 30amp service.



ADVANCE YOUR SHOP WITH FORWARD LIFTS

Choosing the right lift for your shop is a big decision; pick the right one and you are on your way to a more productive and lucrative future. Choose the wrong lift and you have a great place to hang your coats and maybe store some other equipment. Forward's knowledgeable team of distributors are here to help answer any questions you may have. And when you are ready to purchase, they are here, ready to help with the sale and installation. Reach out to your nearest distributor today, or get in touch at www.forwardlift.com.

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