



Explore a Career as a
**WAREHOUSE WORKER OR
FORKLIFT DRIVER**

Target Occupation Profile

What do Warehouse Workers and Forklift Drivers do?

Warehouse workers and forklift drivers play a critical role in the function of a warehouse. They help move goods, supplies, and materials from one place to another while adhering to strict government and company safety standards. These workers prepare and fulfill orders by loading, Unloading, and moving items onto and off of shelves, trucks, pallets, etc. using machinery or by hand. They may have many different responsibilities and titles depending on the employer. Some become certified to operate tractors, industrial trucks, and forklifts to move goods while others use their own manual abilities and strength. There is a lot of teamwork involved to manage, organize and retrieve stock in the warehouse.

Warehouse Workers and Forklift Drivers are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of warehouse workers and forklift drivers is expected to increase through the year 2020.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a warehouse worker or forklift driver once you earn a certificate or degree, depending on the work you want to do. You must have a valid driver's license and possess a clean driving record to operate certain machinery. Companies will also provide training for new warehouse workers on the job.

As a Warehouse Worker or Forklift Driver you will:

- Attach sling, hook or other devices to lift cargo and guide load
- Document and maintain records of material being moved
- Operate machinery and tools to move goods
- Pack or wrap products by hand
- Sort cargo before loading and unloading
- Stack cargo in locations such as transit shed or in hold of ship as directed, using pallet or cargo board

Warehouse Worker or Forklift Driver

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a warehouse worker or forklift driver.

To access a list of training providers for these occupations and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are many different types of employers of warehouse workers and forklift drivers including:

- Automobile Dealerships
- Food and beverage wholesalers
- Freight carrier companies
- Manufacturing companies
- Retail sales and home delivery services
- Shipping companies
- Trucking companies
- Warehouses

Wages & Openings

Warehouse Worker and Forklift Driver Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$9.50
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$14.21
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	3,150
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	5,522

*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

Opportunities

After you complete your training as a warehouse worker or forklift driver you will have many opportunities for specialization and advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Freight Warehouse Worker or Forklift Driver
- Material Moving Machine Operator
- Operations Manager
- Refuse and Recyclable Material Manager
- Warehouse Manager



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