

Advantages of Hydraulic Car Lifts Compared to Scissor Lifts

There are many things to consider when deciding which car lift is right for your project. To help you choose, we've listed below some of the key advantages that standard hydraulic systems offer compared to scissor lifts.

Performance

- Most scissor lifts only have a loading capacity of 2,500 kg. IdealPark hydraulic lifts are available up to 3,200 kg capacity.
- Scissor lifts with covers/lids do not allow parking on the upper lids. This is possible with IdealPark hydraulic lifts.
- The speed of a scissor lift's operation is very limited – often around 0.02 metres per second. IdealPark hydraulic lifts travel at between 0.05 and 0.15 metres per second.
- Due to the inefficient operation of the scissor action (in effect, forcing against the direction of travel), scissor lifts typically use around 4 times the amount of energy when lifting, compared to IdealPark hydraulic lifts.
- Scissor lifts are often not as well finished as IdealPark hydraulic lifts, which are available with Triplex coatings, LED lighting, safety sensors, PLC control, maintenance touch screens etc.

User Comfort

- Scissor lifts have no vertical guides, meaning the platform has a substantial degree of vibration (particularly laterally) during travel when loading/unloading the vehicle. This can be uncomfortable and disconcerting for users.
- Scissor lifts do not allow telescopic cover lids (the lid is always a fixed distance above the platform) and so protrude much higher than IdealPark hydraulic lifts when in the fully raised position.

Safety

- Scissor lifts generally have cheap, less-reliable photoelectric cells to check the car's position. For extra safety, IdealPark hydraulic lifts use complete infrared light barriers at each end of the lift platform and many additional sensors.

Installation

- The transportation, manoeuvring on site and positioning of scissor lifts for installation can all be much more difficult, as the lift is usually delivered pre-assembled as a complete structure. This can be challenging for installation in city centres, high-density urban areas and where there is restricted access to the building.

Maintenance

- Many lower-priced scissor lifts are not galvanised, but are painted. This offers much less protection than IdealPark hydraulic lifts which are all fully galvanised and then optionally powder coated.
- Scissor lift arms require a high maintenance strategy; without very regular greasing they become noisy. Although IdealPark hydraulic lifts also require routine maintenance, this is considerably less and not as sensitive to the environment or use.
- Due to the nature of their action, larger loads are applied to components in scissor lifts. These parts therefore have a much higher wear rate than hydraulic lifts.
- Repairing a scissor lift's lifting mechanism is problematic, as most of the components are welded together and the space under the platform is extremely restricted and not easily reached. Repairs can therefore often be expensive and very time consuming.