Rough Terrain Forklifts

There are actually two different classifications of lift trucks within the materials handling market, the industrial model and the rough terrain model. Rough terrain forklifts initially arrived on the market in the 1940's and were predominantly used on coarse surfaces, best for areas where no covered roads were accessible, like construction sites and lumberyards.

Rough ground lift trucks typically utilize an internal combustion engine with a battery for power. The engines can run on propane, diesel or gasoline. Many makers are playing with rough land forklifts that make use of vegetable matter and run from ethanol. Substantial pneumatic tires with deep treads distinguish these vehicles to allow them to grasp onto the roughest soil type devoid of any misstep or sliding.

The earliest versions of rough terrain forklifts were able to carry weights of up to 1000 lbs, using forks that could slide underneath the item, lift it a tiny bit and then transfer it to an alternate location. After a decade on the market, all terrain forklifts had been given supplementary shipping power to about 2000 lbs capacity. In the 1960's telescoping booms were added, permitting them to stack supplies a good deal higher than in previous years. The telescoping design feature is a staple of nearly all rough terrain lift trucks these days. Present styles are capable of managing well over 4000 lbs due to the continued improvements through the years. Telescoping capability has also improved with some styles attaining a height of 35 feet. Worker safety has also become a focus with some all terrain forklifts now built are fitted with an enclosed cab for the driver, as opposed to the older open air seating capacity.

The all terrain lift trucks available today work equally as well on covered floors as on unpaved roads. These rough terrain forklifts are being marketed for their usefulness allowing businesses to transfer parts from outside the plant to the inside or vice versa.