

SELECTING WHEEL CHOCKS



Wheel chocks come in a variety of styles and sizes. When selecting wheel chocks, remember that their basic purpose is to prevent sudden movement of a tire that can put a vehicle in motion and place nearby people or property at risk. Wheel chocks are wedge shaped and work against gravity to keep the tire and vehicle stationary. Some important factors to consider when selecting wheel chocks include size, material, and terrain.

SIZE

The size of the tire on which the chocks will be used is the basic guideline for determining the correct size of chock. The first step is to measure the height of the vehicle's tires. Ideally, you should pick a wheel chock that is about 1/4 of the tire's height. So if the vehicle has 36" tires, the wheel chock should be about 9" tall. This should allow the chock to fit securely under the tire. Because tires can bend around the chock, picking the correct size of wheel chocks is essential.

MATERIAL AND CONSTRUCTION

The chock's material is also important when making a buying decision. Materials of construction include rubber, steel, cast iron, and aluminum. Most chocks are constructed with some type of tread on the bottom to prevent slippage. However, aluminum chocks sometimes have teeth on the bottom that can embed into the floor. This may help with stability but can also damage surfaces. Also, most models are curved to hug the tire, creating a downward force in addition to a forward force. As a result, the heavier the vehicle, the less likely the chock is to move.

TERRAIN

The grade of terrain on which the vehicle will be parked should also be considered. The angle, or grade, may be steep enough that more than one chock will be required. On a steep incline, it's essential that the chocks be large enough to hold the vehicle in neutral. In a situation like this, at least 2 chocks will be needed. The owner's manual of the vehicle may also provide information regarding the type and number of chocks that should be used.



Sources: www.cldhandlingsystems.com/how-to-choose-the-right-size-wheel-chocks.html
shopnewview.com/wheel-chocks-choose-kind-best-needs/

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