

How to stop dust killing your forklift

7 May 2014 by Mitsubishi Forklift Trucks

Forklift truck engines naturally pick up dust and dirt from the surroundings and floor – causing poor fuel economy, reduced reliability and high engine wear. What can be done?

You wouldn't think something as tiny as dust could stop a forklift in its tracks, but it does. Dirty engines get choked up, causing serious issues like:

Engine wear

A clogged engine wears out faster, as millions of tiny particles grind away at the bearings, pistons, cylinders and valves – that means more breakdowns, more downtime and more parts to buy. **In fact, some estimates say a clean engine lasts twice as long.**

Oil contamination

Dust mixes with oil, and stops it doing its job. Worse, contaminated oil can actually accelerate damage to the engine it's supposed to protect.

Fuel burning problems

More dust means less air, which affects the engine's ratio of air to fuel. That makes the engine less fuel efficient, and can also cause harmful emissions.

The cyclone effect

The real problem is, keeping a forklift engine clean is harder than it sounds. Not only do engines take in air as part of the combustion process, but the engine motion itself simply **sucks dust and dirt from the floor**, like a cyclone vacuum cleaner.

Source: GF Manfred Suthues

ENGINES