

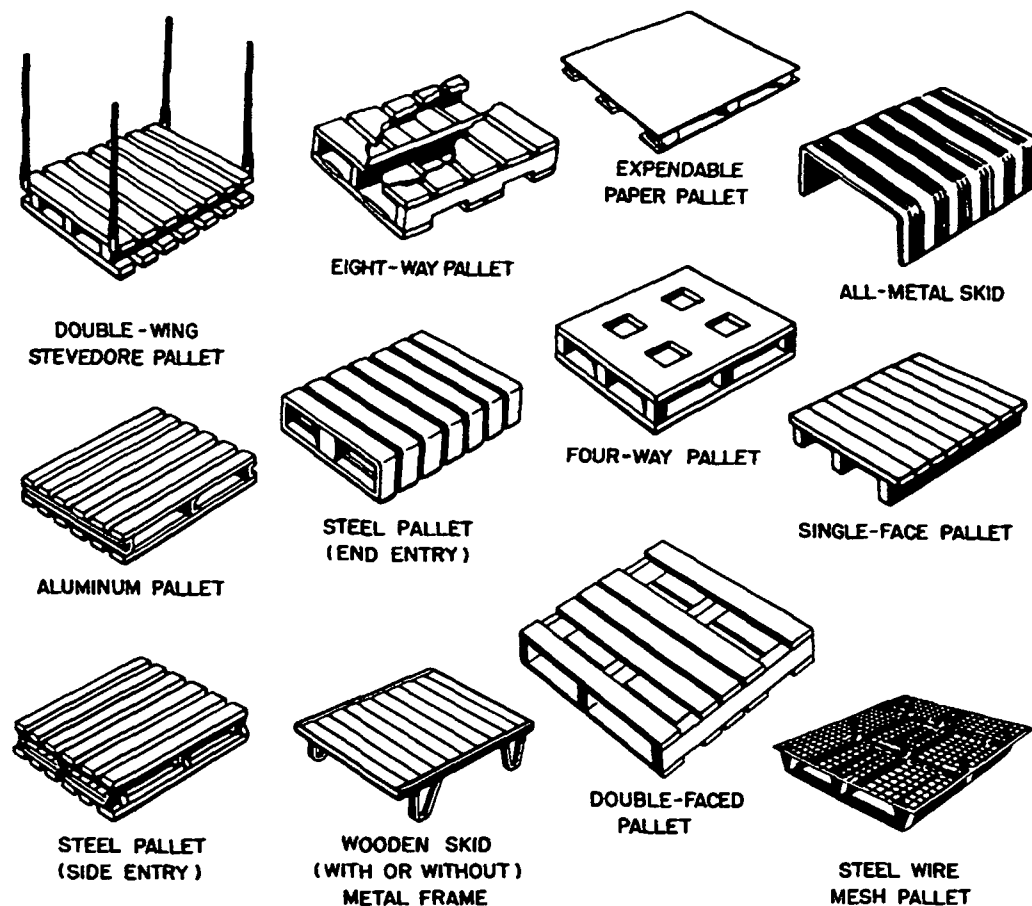


FIG 22-16 – Lift truck operators should be familiar with pallet and skid types
Courtesy Industrial Truck Assn

Most pallets (Fig 22-16) have two parts the *deck* or surface of the pallet and the *stringers* separating the upper and lower decks. To designate pallet size, the length of the stringer is given first, followed by the length of the deckboards. A pallet with stringers 32 in long, running parallel to the forks, and deckboards 40 in long, running across the forks, would be referred to as a 32 by 40 pallet.

Three elements are involved in the safest, most durable pallets: sound lumber, secure fastenings, and proper construction.

Lumber

Pallets are exposed in varying degrees to

wear and tear caused by repeated entry and striking of forks and handtruck wheels, impact or strain exerted by dropped articles, static loads imposed by storage and stacking, and distortion or bending by various types of handling equipment. The lumber must have sufficient strength for nails, bolts, and other fastenings to hold the pallet together without breaking under stress.

A good pallet should be constructed throughout with sound lumber, and be free of decay and free of knots with an average diameter greater than one-third the width of the board or stringer. There should be no knots in nailing areas, in the centers of deckboards,