



DO MORE WITH ONE TRUCK

Stellar® Hooklift Selection Guide



ONE TRUCK. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Across industries nationwide, [hooklifts](#) have changed the way fleets think about versatility. With one truck and one operator, a hooklift can take on the work of several dedicated trucks — and do it all without requiring the operator to leave the cab.

By picking up, transporting and placing a wide range of body types and sizes, a hooklift truck:

- + **Maximizes fleet utilization** — a single truck with interchangeable bodies replaces multiple single-purpose trucks that might otherwise sit idle.
- + **Reduces ownership costs** — fewer trucks to purchase, license, insure, fuel and maintain.
- + **Simplifies operations** — one operator can complete more jobs per day without the need for multiple drivers, reducing labor costs.
- + **Enhances operator convenience** — unlike cable hoists, operators don't need to leave the cab to hook up or disconnect containers.
- + **Adapts to shifting needs** — bodies can be swapped in minutes to meet changing job demands.
- + **Delivers long-term ROI** — greater efficiency and flexibility translate into lower lifetime costs and higher productivity.

Whether you manage a large, established fleet or are building your business from the ground up, the right hooklift ensures your investment works harder. This guide walks you through the key questions to ask and the options available — helping you choose the system that helps you do more with one truck.



KEY QUESTIONS FOR SELECTING A HOOKLIFT

Stellar was founded in 1990 as the first U.S. company to design and manufacture a hydraulic hooklift hoist domestically. With decades of proven expertise, Stellar recommends beginning the selection process with these essential considerations.

A photograph showing three men standing next to a white truck with a yellow hooklift hoist. The man on the left, wearing a black Stellar polo shirt and jeans, is pointing at the truck's chassis. The man in the middle wears a green polo shirt with a logo and a baseball cap. The man on the right wears a dark polo shirt and sunglasses. They are in an outdoor setting with a building in the background.

The right hooklift
starts with
the right
questions.

How do I want to use my hooklift?

Think of a hooklift as the multi-tool of your fleet. Instead of investing in multiple single-purpose trucks that sit idle between jobs, one hooklift and operator can cover it all. Across industries, that versatility translates to applications such as:

- + **Material transport** — move raw materials, packaged products or supplies on stake or flatbeds.
- + **Equipment transport** — carry compact equipment and machinery without trailers.
- + **Liquid handling** — transport water tanks and other specialized containers.
- + **Service and support** — deploy field lube systems, welders or mobile workshops.
- + **Waste and recycling** — haul containers for debris, scrap and recyclable materials.
- + **Storage and logistics** — move storage containers and support equipment where needed.

With [more than 100 uses](#), hooklifts help organizations keep assets earning, costs contained and productivity on track. It's why so many fleet owners and operators who see one in action for the first time say: *"I wish I'd known about hooklifts sooner — I could have really used one."*



What hooklift size do I need?

Getting the size right is essential. Choose a model that's too small, and your hooklift won't handle the loads you need to move; too large, and you'll overspend on equipment you don't fully use. To strike the right balance, evaluate:

- + **Capacity** — match lift and dump ratings to the weight ranges you'll haul most often.
- + **Body lengths** — consider both the shortest and longest bodies you plan to run, as these affect flexibility and performance.
- + **Hook height** — ensure compatibility with today's containers while leaving room for future needs.
- + **Chassis class** — confirm Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) requirements and determine whether your operation requires a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

By taking time to align your hooklift's capacity, body flexibility and chassis requirements with your workload, you'll avoid costly missteps and make sure your hooklift is sized for lasting performance. With a [complete range of hooklifts](#), Stellar ensures there's a model matched to your needs and goals.

Telescopic vs. non-telescopic: Which hooklift style fits my operation?

In the hooklift world, there are two primary styles — telescopic and non-telescopic — each suited to different operators and applications.

- + **Telescopic hooklifts** use an extending and retracting jib assembly to accommodate a wider range of body lengths. They also offer adjustable hook heights, making them the preferred choice when adaptability is critical — whether it's accommodating different body specifications or expanding capabilities over time. With a telescopic system, one truck can handle numerous body types and sizes, maximizing utilization across your fleet.
- + **Non-telescopic hooklifts** are simple, economical and easy to operate. With a fixed hook height and body length range, they're straightforward to train on and ideal for fleets with multiple operators or standardized containers. The tradeoff: less flexibility if your operation requires a variety of body sizes.

Simply put: Choose a non-telescopic hooklift if your operation values simplicity, standardization and ease of use. Choose a telescopic hooklift if your operation demands maximum versatility, flexibility across body sizes and the ability to adapt as your needs evolve.

In addition to style, consider control preferences. Options range from traditional cable and air systems to modern electronic joysticks and radio remotes. The best choice is the one that aligns with your operators' comfort level and your fleet's operational needs.

What regulations do I need to comply with?

Hooklifts are engineered to meet the following ANSI, OSHA and FMVSS safety standards: ANSI Z245.1, Z245.3, Z245.6; OSHA 1926.601(b)(11); FMVSS 393.134.

Stellar and its [distributors](#) can also assist with axle weight calculations through [Truck Science](#) and recommend optimal configurations for compliance. Even so, it's critical to stay up to date on state and local requirements to ensure your operation meets all applicable regulations.



CHOOSING THE HOOKLIFT THAT FITS YOUR OPERATION

There are many hooklift manufacturers, but Stellar stands apart with U.S.-built systems engineered for strength, adaptability and lasting value. Stellar's lineup includes the NXT and Shuttle Series, both designed to meet different operational needs.

The NXT uses telescopic designs for maximum flexibility and adaptability across body sizes, while the Shuttle Series delivers straightforward performance with non-telescopic operation for fleets that value simplicity and economy.



NXT™ SERIES ADVANCED VERSATILITY

The Stellar® NXT Series takes productivity to the next level with best-in-class lost load height across all models and a robust lift capacity that maximizes flexibility. With just one truck and one operator, the NXT hooklift can handle dumpsters, flatbeds, storage containers and more — letting you take on more jobs per day with fewer assets.

Key Features:

- + **Z-rail design** delivers exceptional strength without added weight.
- + **Hook height*** choices of 36", 54" and 62" with manual or hydraulic adjustment options.
- + **Compact lost load height** (as low as 7.5") lowers the vertical center of gravity for improved stability while driving.
- + **Bolt-on body lock system** offers universal adjustment inside or outside, with no cutting or welding required.
- + **Integrated body lock mounting holes** for simplified installation — compatible with both inside and outside body locks.
- + **In-cab control options** — including cable, air, electronic joystick or radio remote — for smooth, precise operation.
- + **Universal hydraulic reservoir mounting bracket** allows flexible placement.
- + **Integrated soft-stop feature** helps protect the body by bringing to rest gently on the body saddles.
- + **Speed enhancement system** for cylinder extension cuts cycle time by up to 75% (NXT40, NXT52, NXT68).
- + **Replaceable wear pads** for ease of service.

With innovation built into every detail, the NXT Series is ideal for operations seeking maximum adaptability and long-term return.

*Some dimensions shown have been rounded up for marketing purposes.
Refer to the appropriate model manual for exact specifications.



SHUTTLE SERIES SIMPLE, COST-EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE

Stellar is the only U.S. manufacturer to build [Shuttle Hooklifts](#), designed with simplicity and economy in mind. Fewer functions mean easier training and straightforward operation, making them a popular choice for fleets with multiple operators or standardized container sizes.

Key Features:

- + **Integrated base frame** provides added chassis support and simplified installation.
- + **Available hook heights** of 36", 54" and 62" to accommodate a variety of body configurations.
- + **Four-section design** (base, dump, secondary and tilt) delivers reliable performance across applications.
- + **Patented tilt and dump latch system** allows seamless transition between loading/offloading and dumping.
- + **Integrated rear body latch system** ensures secure transport across various container hold-down configurations.
- + **Twin-post tilt design** provides line-of-sight visibility of the hook from the cab.
- + **Permanently lubricated bushings and rugged body locks** ensure stability and longevity.
- + **Full-length dump frame with front saddles** for superior body support during dump mode.
- + **In-cab controls** allow the operator to manage all functions without leaving the truck.

The Shuttle Series provides a dependable, cost-effective option for fleets seeking simplicity without sacrificing reliability.

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SELECTION CHART*

MODEL	STYLE	CAPACITY	HOOK HEIGHT	BODY LENGTHS	MIN. GVWR
NXT18	Telescopic	18,000-lb	36"/54"	Short: 8' – 11.5' Long: 12' – 14'	16,000 – 26,000 lbs
NXT24	Telescopic	24,000-lb	36"/54" or 54"/62"	Short: 10' – 14' Medium: 12' – 16' Long: 14' – 18'	Short: 22,000 lbs Medium: 26,000 lbs Long: 26,000 lbs
NXT30	Telescopic	30,000-lb	36"/54" or 54"/62"	Short: 10' – 14' Medium: 12' – 16' Long: 14' – 18'	33,000 lbs
NXT40	Telescopic	40,000-lb	54"/62"	Short: 16' – 20' Long: 16' – 22'	54,000 lbs
NXT52	Telescopic	52,000-lb	54"/62"	Short: 16' – 20' Long: 16' – 22'	54,000 lbs
NXT68	Telescopic	68,000-lb	54"/62"	Short: 16' – 20' Long: 16' – 22'	54,000 lbs
Shuttle16 (Flex)	Non-telescopic	16,000-lb	36" or 54"	8' – 15'	10,500 – 26,000 lbs
Shuttle20	Non-telescopic	20,000-lb	36" or 54" or 62"	12' – 21.5'	26,000 lbs
Shuttle24	Non-telescopic	24,000-lb	54"	10' – 12.5'	26,000 lbs
Shuttle32	Non-telescopic	32,000-lb	62"	12' – 21.5'	33,000 – 43,000 lbs
Shuttle34	Non-telescopic	34,000-lb	54"	15' – 17.5'	43,000 lbs
Shuttle40	Non-telescopic	40,000-lb	62"	12' – 21.5'	43,000 lbs
Shuttle52	Non-telescopic	52,000-lb	62"	15' – 21.5'	54,000 lbs
Shuttle65	Non-telescopic	65,000-lb	62"	15' – 21.5'	54,000 lbs

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SUPPORT THAT LASTS BEYOND THE SALE

Investing in a hooklift is only the first step. What truly protects your investment is the support you receive long after the purchase. The right partner will help minimize downtime, extend equipment life and keep your crews productive by providing:

- + **Warranty protection** — 5-year structural component and 3-year paint coverage helps protect your investment.
- + **State-of-the-art paint process** — advanced paint technology delivers long-lasting durability and finish quality.
- + **Service and parts availability** — access to authorized service centers and quick-ship replacement parts to keep trucks on the job.
- + **Expert guidance** — factory-trained teams and distributor networks ready to troubleshoot challenges and share best practices.
- + **Training and resources** — operator instruction, product manuals and digital tools that help your crews work confidently and efficiently.

A true partner delivers more than a product — they provide the long-term backing that keeps your operation moving forward.



THE STELLAR DIFFERENCE

Stellar is a 100% employee-owned company committed to engineering high-quality work trucks, trailers and accessories that keep industries moving. Founded in 1990 as the first U.S. manufacturer of hydraulic hooklift hoists, Stellar has led the way with dozens of innovative designs.

Today, Stellar Hooklifts power operations across municipalities, rental, waste, recycling, scrap, construction and many other industries. Every unit is backed by a limited [warranty](#) that includes 5-year structural and 3-year paint failure coverage, a responsive [Parts Distribution Center](#) that ships most orders within 24 hours and a nationwide network of trusted distributors.

When you choose Stellar, you're choosing more than a hooklift. You're choosing equipment backed by employee owners who are invested in your success — from the first job to the thousandth.



U.S.-built.
Employee-owned.
**Committed
to your
future.**



GET MORE FROM EVERY TRUCK.



Talk with a Stellar representative or your local distributor today to build a hooklift solution designed around your needs. With unmatched versatility and proven performance, Stellar Hooklifts help fleets across industries maximize productivity and make the most of every truck.

To speak with a hooklift expert about your needs, call Stellar at **800.321.3741** or **contact us now.**

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