

LOADER CHEAT SHEET

Loader Lift Capacity, Decoded

Why the pivot-pin rating lies, and how to read the real number.

THE THREE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

- SAE J1234 (24" forward of pin)** The honest spec. Load sits 24 inches forward in the bucket. Use this number.
- Metric (500 mm forward of pin)** European/Kubota standard. 500 mm = 19.7". Roughly 5% higher than the true 24" number.
- Pivot pin (at the boom)** Marketing number. Real loads are never here. Derate to ~65% to estimate true 24" capacity.

Common loads (typical weights)

| Load | Pounds | Category |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Full bucket of mulch (60") | 600 | Landscaping |
| Full bucket of topsoil | 1,200 | Landscaping |
| Full bucket of pea gravel | 1,600 | Landscaping |
| Full bucket of damp sand | 2,200 | Landscaping |
| Pallet of sod (500 sq ft, wet) | 2,000 | Pallet work |
| Pallet of seed / fertilizer | 2,000 | Pallet work |
| Pallet of concrete pavers | 2,500 | Pallet work |
| Round hay bale 4x5 (dry) | 900 | Hay |
| Round hay bale 5x6 (dry) | 1,500 | Hay |
| 20 small square bales | 900 | Hay |
| Face cord green hardwood | 1,500 | Property |
| Full bucket of wood chips | 500 | Property |

THE 25% RULE

Load within 25% of rated 24" capacity = marginal. Expect slow lift, tipping risk, no margin for shock loads. Add rear ballast (loaded tires or 3-point weight box), work on level ground, and keep the load low.