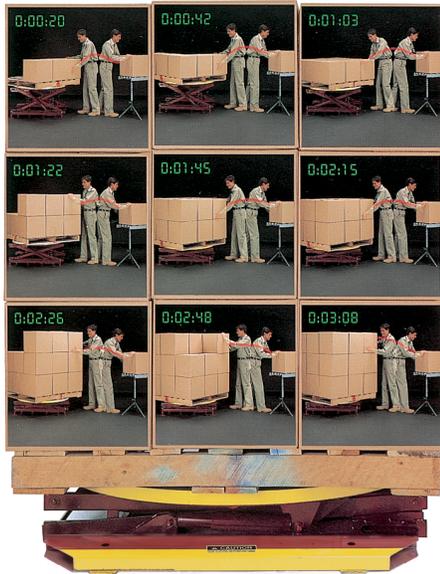


## 2-MINUTE OVERVIEW

# PalletPal Level Loader Reduces Back Pain and Injuries in Paint Plants



### Features/Benefits provided:

- With the PalletPal Level Loader, the pallet is always at the correct height for loading. No more bending, stooping or stretching.
- Case handling is vastly simplified and back strain and fatigue are all but eliminated.

Pallet loading at the end of the paint-filling line require workers to lift cartons of paint from a conveyor belt to pallets placed on the floor. Completed pallets are then taken to the Shipping Department.

The pallets are typically loaded with 45 cartons of paint, each containing four one-gallon cans for total weight of over a ton.

Acting on a recommendation from a colleague in another division of the company, the Production Manager installed a product known as the PalletPal Level Loader specifically designed to reduce back strain and the possibility of injury during pallet loading operations.

"We installed the equipment at the end of the filling line after cans are filled, labeled and packed and sealed in cartons," the manager explains. "The cartons are then manually pulled off the conveyor belt and stacked onto a pallet. The pallet rested on the floor and, since the conveyor belt was two feet above the floor level, handling the cartons involved awkward motion and was really hard on the back. With the PalletPal Level Loader, the pallet is always at the correct height for loading. No more stooping or stretching."

In practice, as a worker transfers cartons of paint from conveyor to pallet, the load drops lower and lower to maintain the top level at waist height for worker convenience. Case handling is vastly simplified and back strain and fatigue are all but eliminated.

The PalletPal Level Loader is manufactured by Southworth Products Corp, Portland, Maine. Heavy-duty springs are calibrated to automati-

cally keep pallets at the most convenient height for loading or unloading. No power is required. There are no motors or hydraulic systems to maintain and operation requires no operator attention.

The PalletPal is solidly built for industrial duty. A rugged, tubular steel frame is rated for loads up to 4400 pounds and a low-friction turntable makes continuous near-side loading possible. Pallets are automatically held level even under uneven loads and shock absorbers protect against spring bounce or overshoot.

Studies show that the PalletPal can cut the work required for loading or unloading pallets by as much as 75 percent, with time savings of up to 40 percent. "The employee who handles pallet loading was not too enthused at first," says the manager. "But after using it, he quickly decided the PalletPal was a pretty good idea after all."

With the success of the PalletPal on the conveyor line. The paint company's production manager said he would like to install more PalletPals throughout. One at the mixing vat, where bags of pigments and other ingredients are combined in the paint manufacturing process. "We could use our PalletPal to keep the bags on a level with the top of the mixing vat."

*"The pallets are typically loaded with 45 cartons of paint... a total of weight of over a ton."*



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