

MAST CLIMBERS | FUNDAMENTALS OF SAFE USE

GROUND CONDITIONS

A mast climber can weigh tens of thousands of pounds, and the movement of the platform, and the personnel in it, can create a further “dynamic load.” It is therefore vital to ensure that the ground under the mast climber is solid and secure, and that it stays that way. Here are some important points to remember:

1. **Make sure** the ground underneath the mast and the jacks is well compacted. Be extra careful if the ground around the perimeter has recently been back-filled.
2. **Check** the building plans for any extended basements, pipe trenches, or drainage channels.
3. **Regularly inspect** the ground around the unit to make sure that it is still stable, look out for trenches that may have been dug since the unit was first installed, and check for weather erosion around the base after heavy rain.
4. **Look up** before final mast placement. There may be protrusions or other obstacles which might require the re-positioning of the mast. Remember to re-assess ground conditions as per points 1-3 above.
5. **Make sure** the mast is not in front of exit doors or openings, and make sure that the path of travel of the platform does not interfere with windows and doors, and that when the platform is in descent there is no access to the area underneath the platform. Remember to re-assess ground conditions as per points 1-3 above.
6. **Level** the mast in two directions, parallel to, and perpendicular to the structure, and, when the unit is level, **ensure** that the jacks are still all under load.
7. **Make sure** that the position of the mast climber base is not close to jobsite traffic routes, and always re-assess the position of the mast if the traffic routes change around site.
8. **Regularly check** that the mast and chassis/ground plate are still level.
9. **Before dismantle**, ensure that all jacks are under load, the mast is level in both directions, and the ground underneath the mast climber is still sound and well compacted.
10. **If you are concerned** about the ground conditions or the stability of the mast climber at any time, **STOP** immediately and report your concerns to a competent person.

