

## **DRUM AND BARREL HANDLING**

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This is a job, that under ideal conditions would be done only with drum lifting and moving equipment. Many of the drums we move weigh well in excess of 450 lbs and present a challenge even to very strong individuals. Besides the weight, drums are also very large and bulky, which makes the job even harder. It is very important not to use your back in a bend/twist position while doing this job. Here are some suggestions that can aid you greatly with the job of moving drums and barrels.

Tipping the load: The most frequent and common way of tipping a drum to move it, is to stand sideways to the drum with your feet in wide stance, reaching across the drum for your grasp. This position places your back in a very extreme bend/twist and also requires a good hard jerk on the drum to get it tipped. **NEVER TIP A DRUM THIS WAY.**



Tipping the load with POWERLIFT® - To tip a heavy drum, establish a wide POWERLIFT® stance, then push the load (drum) away from you. This eliminates any and all bend/twisting of the back to tip the drum. Remember that this is a balancing act and must be done carefully. However, if no drum lifting equipment is available and you must do the job manually, this is the best and safest method of tipping and moving a drum that you will find.



Tipping the drum with POWERLIFT® - Now that the drum is tipped and you are balancing it, you must move yourself around to the opposite side so that you can more effectively handle the heavy drum. Do this by keeping the drum balanced and moving while in wide stance. (Crab Walk).



Moving the drum with POWERLIFT® - Once you have moved all the way to the other side of the drum, it then becomes relatively easy to roll the drum along the floor to move it. Remember to always keep yourself in wide stance so that your legs absorb the shifting weight of this load and not your back.

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Moving the drum to the pallet with POWERLIFT® - If this is a manual drum moving task, use the same drum tipping and moving procedure as outlined previously to move the drum to the pallet. Always keep yourself in a wide stance POWERLIFT® position so that your legs handle the load.



Setting the drum on the edge of the pallet with POWERLIFT® - Roll the drum up to the pallet in the usual fashion and set the drum on the edge of the pallet. The key here is to set the drum far enough up on to the edge of the pallet so that it is nearly balanced. If the drum is far enough up, it will teeter easily up on to the pallet because its weight is balanced evenly between the pallet and the floor. If the drum is not put far enough up you will have to lift a good portion of the weight of the drum to get it on to the pallet.



Tipping the drum on the pallet with POWERLIFT® - Once you have the drum in to position on the edge of the pallet, it should be a relatively easy matter to use your legs as you tip and push the drum on to the pallet. Remember that the drum, at this point, will not be all the way on the pallet and will need to be moved farther while in a full upright position, resting with the bottom rim on the pallet. When the drum is upright and has its bottom rim on the wood of the pallet, the friction generated between the drum and the pallet will be great which in turn will make your job of moving the drum on the pallet harder.

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Positioning the drum on the pallet with bend/twist - Never, ever move a drum on the pallet with bend/twist. This is a very common way of moving drums that can and will result in injury to the back. This is basically an unsafe act and is absolutely prohibited. There are three alternate ways of repositioning the drum on the pallet that are much safer and easier.



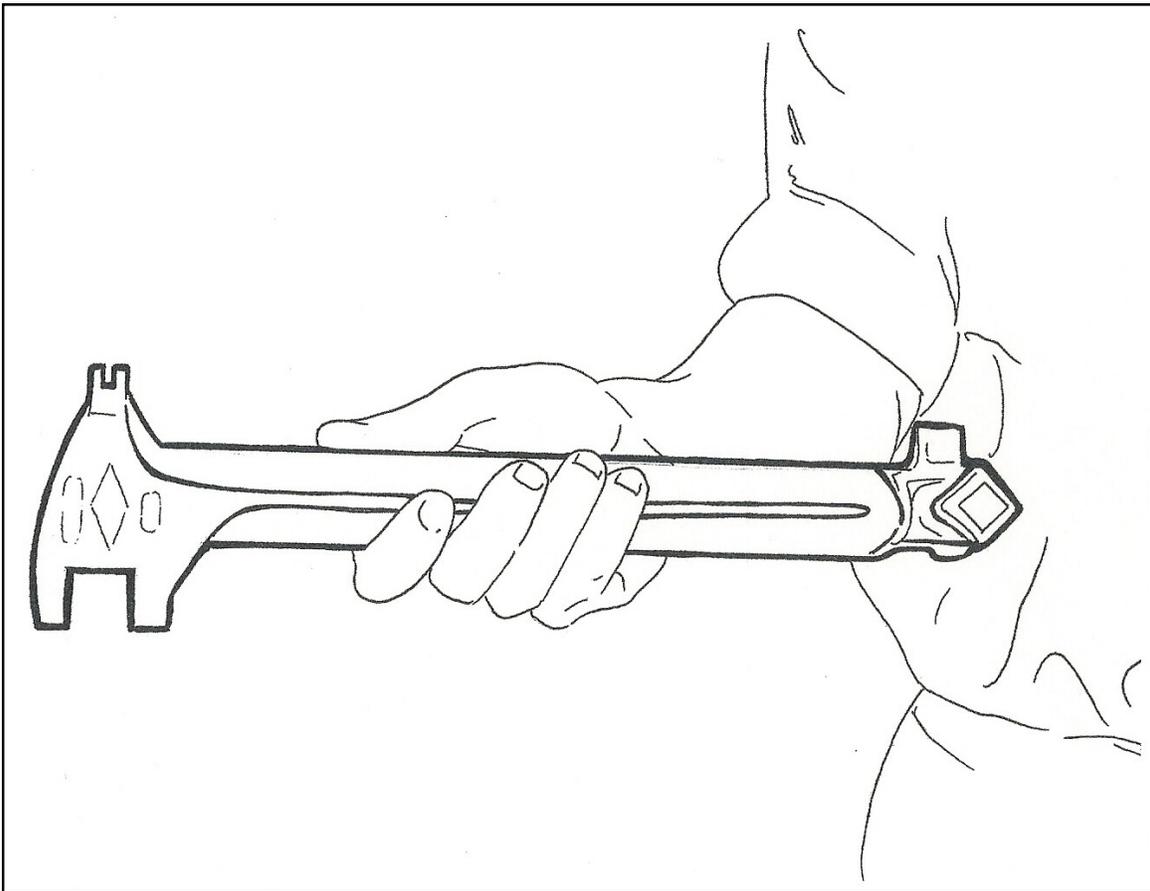
Repositioning with POWERLIFT® - To manually position a drum on the pallet, use a standard wide stance bent knee POWERLIFT® technique. Get close to your load, then either pull the drum towards you or push it away from you as you gradually nudge it into position.



Two person repositioning of the drum with POWERLIFT® - A much better way of repositioning the drum on the pallet is with help. Two persons using good POWERLIFT® technique are obviously better than one. The problem is, most times we are busy and can't find help. Remember however, that this is your back that is handling a very heavy load. There may be times when it is in YOUR interest to get help.

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Repositioning the drum with a Bung Wrench - The most versatile tool at your disposal for moving drums is the Bung Wrench. This tool obviously is used for opening and closing the barrel but what is not so obvious is that it can also be used for moving the barrel.

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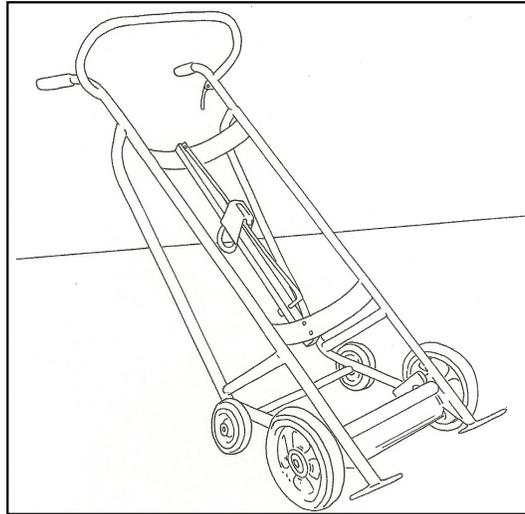
USING THE BUNG WRENCH

To move a drum as in repositioning on a pallet or to move it across the floor, simply hook the bung wrench on to the rim of the drum and use it as a lever arm to rotate the barrel. You will be amazed at how much easier it will be to move even the heaviest drums when you learn to use the Bung Wrench.

As you will quickly find, using the Bung Wrench to move drums is extremely easy. Remember however, to keep a wide stance and your knees bent so as to avoid bend/twisting in all modes of this procedure.



USING THE BUNG WRENCH WITH POWERLIFT®



THE DRUM CART

There are several types of Drum Carts on the market, some good and some not so good. Qualities to look for in a drum cart are:

1. Lightness - it should be made of aluminum and not steel.
2. Hand Brake - for helping you to stop when going down inclines and for general control, an easy to operate hand brake is important.
3. Front tines - the tines that slip under the barrel should be tapered and relatively sharp to ease operation. File down your tines occasionally to keep them in good working order.
4. Drum lock - look for an easy to operate drum locking (capturing) device. Nothing is worse than a drum lock that sticks or requires two hands to operate when one or both of your hands are busy. A very well made drum cart is available from Valley Craft, South Highway 61, Lake City, MN 55041, telephone 612-345-3386, Model No.3210-0286

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Removing drums from the pallet - This job can be done manually or with equipment. If manually removing the drum, use the same procedures including POWERLIFT® and the Bung Wrench as previously outlined. The easiest and safest way to move a drum off the pallet however, is with a drum cart.



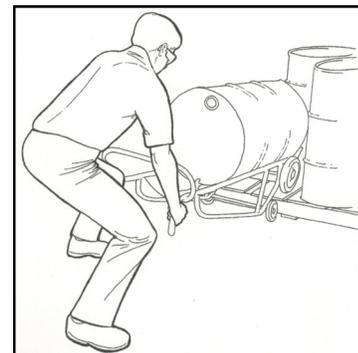
Using the drum cart - The most difficult part of using a drum cart is getting the first drum off the pallet. For this job you will need a half-pallet. The half-pallet allows you to roll the drum cart up to the first drum without the problem of the cart not fitting on the edge of the pallet. Unless you have a very sturdy half-pallet, line the top of it with plywood. This will make moving the cart around on it even easier.



Removing the first drum - Using the half-pallet, remove the first drum from the pallet. Always remember to utilize wide stance in your legs when inserting the drum cart under the drum, tipping it and for pulling it.



Removing the second drum - Removing the second drum is now made easy because there is room on the pallet for the drum cart.



Tipping the drum cart off of the pallet - Be sure to stand at a 45° angle to the handles of the drum cart, use wide stance and your knees to tip the drum cart off of the pallet. This can very easily become a back lift and will only serve to add to the 5,00 back lifts we typically do in a month.

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