

When is a Crane Hoist used?

A crane hoist is usually deployed in a manufacturing plant. This equipment is used to load and unload heavy material from vehicles, as also to transport material between different locations within the premises, such as between the warehouse / store and the factory complex.

The basic design of the crane hoist comprises rails, with heavy iron girders or beams spanning the ceiling of the manufacturing plant. The hoist operates on the rails. A large winch is positioned on the iron beams. This winch enables the hoist to move to any desired location on the girders. A cable is used to hook and lift the materials. In some large crane hoist units, an operator's cabin is provided which is located on the crane and is positioned high in the air. The height gives the operator sitting in the cabin a bird's eye view of the context in which the movement of material is to happen, including the positioning of people and other equipment. This enables the operator to plan the maneuvering of the hoist such as to avoid any problem or injury. In another variant of the crane hoist, a drop-down control switch is available to the operator, who can control the equipment while on the ground. This latter design has been found to be very popular in smaller manufacturing settings, where there may not be enough space or budget to install an operator cabin at a height.

In some cases, crane hoists may also be used out-of-doors, and be mounted on wheels. This portability comes in handy in the context of loading and unloading of shipping containers in ports. Here, a large crane is deployed to lift huge containers off a ship. The mobile crane hoist is then pressed into service to lift each container from its present position and lower it into the trailer of a truck stationed on the dock. The combination of a large crane and a crane hoist also comes in handy for moving huge containers on and off railroad cars.