

What Happens If You Overload A Scale?



The Hidden Costs of Overloading Your Scales

Accurate scales are crucial for countless operations, but what happens when they're pushed beyond their limits? Overloading occurs when a scale handles more weight than it's designed for; imagine a hopper rated for 1,000 pounds being loaded with 2,000. Shock loading, on the other hand, is a sudden, intense impact that briefly exceeds the scales capacity, like a forklift quickly dropping a heavy drum onto a floor scale instead of gently lowering it. While modern scales often have safeguards against overloading, like physical stops, both scenarios can lead to significant damage, especially to the sensitive load cells. This can manifest as anything from broken load cells and destroyed strain gauges to warped decks and damaged electronics, ultimately leading to inaccurate measurements and potentially costly product loss.

The consequences of overloaded or shock-loaded scales go beyond just the repair bill. Depending on how vital your scale is, your entire operation could grind to a halt, costing you valuable time and money. Even if a scale appears to function after an incident, its accuracy and linearity can be compromised, leading to unnoticed measurement errors, reduced lifespan, and continuous financial losses. For instance, an unreported shock load, caused by a forklift striking a tank in a chemical plant, resulted in damaged load cells on a critical scale. This incident led to the overflow of hazardous material, posing a risk to workers and causing product loss. With the help of Cross Precision Measurement technicians, they were able to replace the load cells and recalibrate the scale the same day, allowing the plant to resume operations.

At Cross Precision Measurement, we understand that issues with your scales can't wait. Our experts specialize in keeping your weighing equipment healthy through regular calibration and service. But when the unexpected happens, like an overload or shock load, our 24/7/365 emergency support means a technician can often have you back up and running within hours, minimizing your downtime and preventing further losses. Our experienced technicians can also provide essential scale safety and proper use training to your team. So, whether you need a scale repaired, calibrated, or serviced, a Cross Precision Measurement expert is ready, willing, and able to help.