



TRANSPORTING PIPE SPREADERS

Pipe spreaders used with trench boxes are typically made from either 5" or 8" pipe. Transporting these pipes can be hazardous as they can roll off the back of a truck if not properly restrained. This hazard can be mitigated by banding the pipes together when shipping to a site, but that may not be feasible on their return.

One option is to use pipe chocks, which are designed to be used as wedges between each layer of a pipe "pyramid" to prevent pieces from rolling. The chocks are easily and quickly nailed in place to secure them throughout the pipe load, which is essential for both storage and transport. However, spreaders may still be liable to roll when the chock is removed to unload the pipe, especially if the truck bed has any slope. Therefore, a better option is to use a system that keeps pipe from moving during both loading and unloading operations.

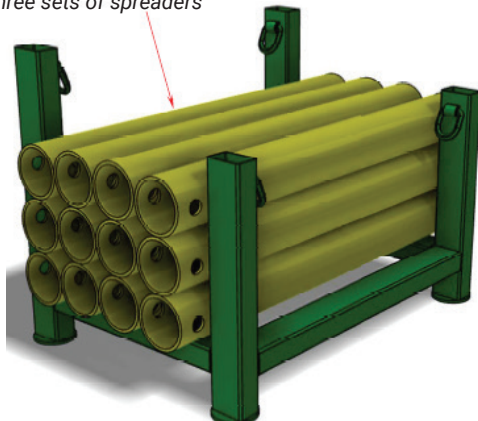
When shipping pipe, consider the following requirements:

- Easy to load and unload, with both fork trucks and cranes/excavators
- Holds pipe in place during shipping to prevent rolling
- Simple design that both yards and sites can use
- Engineered to withstand the weight of pipe when loading
- Able to transport pipe that may have been damaged (for instance, bent) on site
- Preferably reusable

These criteria point toward the use of a rack system as a controlled means of shipping pipe spreaders. The racks must be able to be strapped on the bed of the truck, with their uprights preventing any lateral movement.

Both Arcosa Shoring Products and Cerda Industries have racks to transport either one, or multiple, sets of spreaders:

Spreader transit rack; holds up to three sets of spreaders



Other off-the-shelf racks are available to cover this need, although the requirement for a relatively high weight rating must be considered. The rack below has a WLL of 3300 lbs., so it is limited to 72 linear ft. of 8" pipe, or eight 9 ft. spreaders, for example.



Disclaimer: This document does not provide or address all information, laws, standards, regulations, codes, requirements and safety procedures applicable to excavations, trench protection and shoring options. Readers should comply with all such measures.

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The composite image consists of three parts. On the left is a large QR code. The middle part is a photograph of a trench with metal shoring, with a worker in a yellow safety vest standing on the edge. The right part is a photograph of an excavator working in a trench, with several workers in safety gear nearby.