

# WHAT CAT® LOADER IS BEST FOR MY OPERATION?

SKID STEER  
LOADER



COMPACT  
WHEEL LOADER



When selecting your next machine for your business, making the right choice will optimize efficiency and decrease downtime on the job site. So, how do you make the right decision? When it comes to Cat® skid steer and compact wheel loaders, there are several differences and similarities. Check out these questions to help you select the correct equipment for your business.

VS

## It's pretty tight.

- With their zero turn radius and shorter cab height of 80-83", skid steer loaders are designed for smaller spaces.
- While this design results in inherent limitations in cab space, access and visibility, Caterpillar optimizes the cab with enhanced visibility through an integrated rearview camera.

## No worries here.

- A skid steer will drag the tires when turning, which has the potential to tear up the ground.
- If ground disturbance is a primary concern, you may also want to consider a [Cat compact track loader](#).

## Yes, bring on the attachments.

- Cat skid steers offer features that optimize performance and get the most out of your attachments.
- Take your machine-attachment integration to the next level with [Smart Attachment Technology](#), only available in Cat skid steer and compact track loaders.

## Just around the site.

- While skid steer loaders offer more maneuverability in tight spaces, their speed tops out around 11 mph.

## Not a lot. I'm working primarily at ground level.

- Due to their shorter wheel base, skid steer loaders naturally have a lower tipping load than longer wheel loaders.
- Rated operating capacity (50% tipping load): 1,550 - 3,450 lbs.
- Dump height: 9'3" - 10'7."

HOW MUCH  
SPACE DO I HAVE  
TO WORK?

## I have plenty of space.

- With a taller cab height at 97" and the ability to execute 3-point turns, compact wheel loaders require more space to operate.
- Their larger size allows enhanced cab space and ease of access. A higher seating position provides excellent line-of-site visibility all around the machine.

IS GROUND  
DISTURBANCE  
A CONCERN?

## Let's minimize ground disturbance.

- By articulating and using 3-point turns, compact wheel loaders cause minimal ground disturbance.

WILL I BE UTILIZING  
HYDROMECHANICAL  
ATTACHMENTS?

## No, mainly just a bucket or forks.

- While they are compatible with more complex tools, compact wheel loaders primarily excel in high cycle work, like loading trucks or transporting bulk and palletized material.

HOW FAR WILL  
I TRAVEL IN MY  
MACHINE?

## Far and fast.

- Compact wheel loaders offer higher travel speed at around 23 mph and high carrying capacity.

HOW MUCH LIFT  
CAPACITY AND  
HEIGHT DO I NEED?

## A lot. I need to load dump trucks.

- Compact wheel loaders are designed to lift and manage heavy loads, providing confidence in machine stability, even when loading high-walled dump trucks.
- Full-turn tipping load: 7,507 - 8,311 lbs.
- Dump height: 10'7" - 11'2."
- Need something larger? Check out our [Cat small wheel loaders](#).

With all Cat machines, you know to expect quality equipment, service and parts. Both skid steer and compact wheel loaders offer top-tier efficiency and performance. Your choice between the two simply depends on your specific operation needs. Learn more about [Cat skid steer loaders](#) and [compact wheel loaders](#), and check out our current purchase offers at [www.Cat.com](http://www.Cat.com).

