

# Heavy Tool Storage



If you operate production processes involving the use of heavy tools, dies and moulds, you have a storage problem. These are not easy items to handle, and yet their ready availability is crucial to everyday operations.

When you need to swap tools on the production or assembly line, you want to be able to find the right tool and get it in place quickly and efficiently, and you don't want it damaged or misplaced as these are costly items to replace. At the same time you absolutely want to avoid heavy and awkward lifting for your employees, bearing in mind the cost of work-place injuries and claims.

If you face any of these challenges, you need a Smart Storing solution for your heavy tools and dies!

Do you recognise any of these scenarios in your current set-up?

- ☑ No overview - you can't actually see what you have at the back of the rack
- ☑ Workplace clutter - heavy tools and dies are left on pallets on the floor where they take up too much space, get in the way and are easy to damage.
- ☑ Tools not kept in top condition - you have them where they can get dirty or damaged by coming into contact with other tools
- ☑ Fork lift troubles - you have to use a truck to retrieve heavy tools, so there's a danger of them ending up on the floor. And the tools are too valuable to risk that!
- ☑ Machinery at a standstill - production downtime is excessive during your tool/die changes, so you're wasting resources and maybe even missing schedules.
- ☑ Injury risk - you have heavy tools on pallet racks, but they're hard to get out without awkward manoeuvring. Your workers are leaning too far in and are liable to straining.



The smart solution for easy access and compact storage is the pull-out unit, of course. Get rid of pallets, get rid of fork lift trucks, and lift your tools and dies in and out with an overhead crane if they're too heavy to handle manually. But ordinary pull-out units are designed for pallets, which spread the load.

That's why at Smart Storing we developed special versions for handling these valuable items in your inventory. For **production tool storage** we offer **heavy-duty** pull-out units which can accept **point loads** in any location. They're available for Beam-mounted, Floor-mounted and Upright-mounted racking systems and have the following features:

## ■ Features

- ☑ High quality ball bearings
- ☑ Load capacity up to 1500kg per unit
- ☑ Can be fitted in almost any type of pallet racking
- ☑ Double-thickness steel shelf panels for high point loads
- ☑ Automatic safety locks hold the units in the pushed-in position
- ☑ Size of units can be custom-made to fit the tools you want to store, thus saving space
- ☑ Easy to load and retrieve with overhead cranes, especially with the 100% extension option making it possible to get at all items, even those placed at the back of the unit

## A guide to our range of units for Heavy Tool Storage

Heavy Tool Storage units are available in a range of mounting systems, load capacities and extension capabilities. Your heavy tools are probably one-offs or at least low volume items, so this is a prime example of where you can make efficiency savings by customising your storage quite precisely.



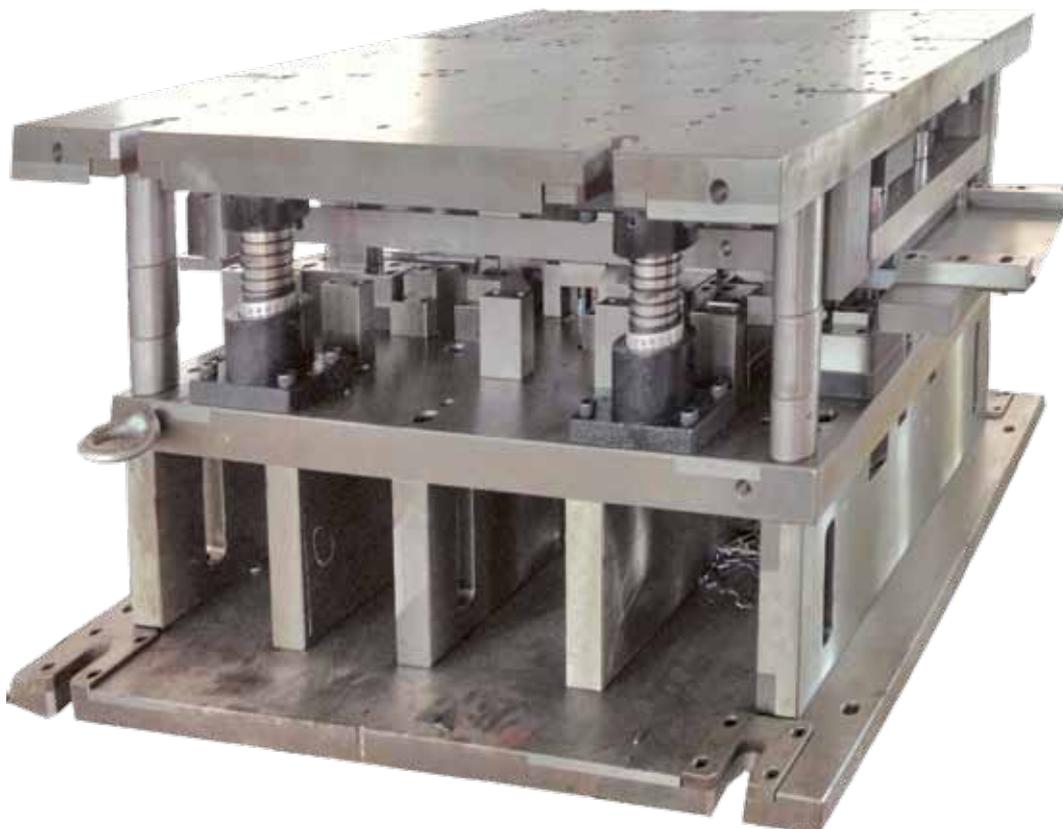
### Here are some factors to consider first of all:

- ☑ What kind of tools and dies do you need to store – sizes, weights, numbers? A range of units is available to hold from 300kg right up to 1500kg.
- ☑ It probably makes sense to put all your heaviest tools and dies at floor level - on Floor-mounted pull-out units, or on Beam-mounted units with feet (ch.5)
- ☑ Having done that, do you also need some Beam- or Upright-mounted units (chs.4,6) for the smaller items?
- ☑ Can you comfortably fit several tools or moulds on one standard shelf (usually 800mm x 1200mm), or will you use one mould per unit? With lighter and smaller tools it's more economical to store several on each unit, but do ensure there is sufficient clearance for handling if your tools are expensive and critical for your business! Heavier tools ( $\geq 500\text{kg}$ ) or large tools ( $\geq 600\text{mm} \times 600\text{mm}$ ) are usually stored on their own dedicated shelf. We can also custom-make units to fit the size of your moulds.
- ☑ If you have smaller tools, you should either go for 100% extension shelves so that you can get at them all easily, or for two-way units (if Beam-mounted in a single rack) – that means your tools are always at the front of the shelf for easy access.
- ☑ If you have single large tools or moulds to handle, how much shelf extension you need may depend on where you can attach lifting hooks to the item. If you can hoist them centrally, 70% extension shelves will work fine and be more economical to buy.
- ☑ If your tools are not suitable for storing on a flat steel surface, the shelves can of course be fitted with another surface material such as steel mesh, grating or wood, or with purpose-made holders to keep them safe.

**Tip:** You can see there are many factors to consider when looking for the optimal solution for your heavy tool storage requirements. It's our job to help you find that solution, so don't hesitate to come and discuss your particular situation with your reseller!

## Typical application areas

- ☑ Electricity Industry (generator parts)
- ☑ Tools & Dies (machine parts, heavy tooling)
- ☑ Plastics Manufacturing (injection moulds, castings)
- ☑ Turbine Manufacturing (production tooling, compressor parts)
- ☑ Steel Fabrication (speciality metals, pressbrake tooling, coil storage)
- ☑ Aerospace Industry (turbine components, engine components, dies)
- ☑ Oil and Gas Industry (pumps, hydraulic cylinders, flanges, casing tools, collars)
- ☑ Automotive Industry (stamping dies, test motors, assembly components, tools)
- ☑ Heavy Engineering (valves, hydraulic pumps, production tooling, compressor parts, precision drill heads, breaker boxes)



**Tip:** You can use any brand of pallet racking provided it's strong enough. The top level can be fitted with steel shelf panels, offering a very cost effective static storage position for tools not used so frequently. This also protects the lower levels against dust.