

When equipping your business to complete everyday tasks, you might consider purchasing a utility cart. Whether you are transporting a few dirty dishes or large warehouse loads, Lakeside can meet all your foodservice needs. However, there are many different tasks, work environments and cart options to consider during your purchase. Following these recommendations will help you select the right cart for your needs and ensure the job gets done.

The first step in selecting a Lakeside utility cart is accurately assessing the environment you will be using it in. Do you manage a family restaurant with ceramic tile floors and need to move dishes quickly back and forth? Or are you a school cafeteria supervisor with vinyl tile floors to maneuver across? Correctly evaluating your work environment will help ensure you receive the most value out of your cart.



Lakeside assigns a Durability Index Rating to every cart it manufactures. Each cart within a “Durability Index” category is designed and constructed to do typical tasks in typical foodservice situations. These categories incorporate the amount of weight the shelves will hold, the flooring types the cart is pushed over and the amount of time per day the cart is used. This is done to match carts with the type of environment they will function best in, increasing customer value. The categories vary by the strength of the stainless steel used in manufacturing the product, frame design, wheel material and other important form elements.

The five Durability Index categories Lakeside assigns to its carts include:

- **Standard duty**
  - Used on smooth tile, vinyl tile floors, smooth indoor concrete
  - Transports up to 300 pounds
  - Used no more than 3 hours per day
- **Medium duty**
  - Used on smooth tile, ceramic tile floors, smooth indoor concrete
  - Transports up to 500 pounds
  - Used no more than 4-9 hours per day
- **Heavy duty**
  - Used on vinyl and ceramic tile floors, carpet, indoor concrete
  - Transports up to 700 pounds
  - Used no more than 9-12 hours per day
- **Tough transport**
  - Used on uneven tile floors, carpet, outdoor concrete, thresholds, elevators
  - Transports up to 1,000 pounds
  - Used no more than 10-18 hours per day
- **Extreme duty**
  - Used on uneven tile floors, carpet, outdoor concrete, parking lots, thresholds, elevators
  - Transports up to 1,500 pounds

- Can be used all day

To discover which cart best suits your needs, use Lakeside's [Load Capacity Calculator](#). This calculator will ask questions regarding your work environment and load expectations. Using this information, it will generate a load capacity number corresponding with a certain durability rating and direct you to the right cart to satisfy your needs.

Lakeside also offers several cart style options to use in different work environments. If work related injuries due to pushing heavy loads or repetitive loading and unloading is a concern, you might want to consider using Lakeside's [Ergo-One Series](#), a line of carts specifically designed to reduce physical stress and injuries. If you want to secure items on the shelves during transport, the [Guard Rail](#) and [Deep Shelf](#) Carts help keep items from falling off. If you must operate in a crowded or compact environment, consider the [Handler Series](#) to maneuver quickly with a vertical one-piece handle and all swivel casters.



Lakeside continues to expand its line to provide the most complete selection of utility carts available. From economical plastic to innovative ergonomic carts, our seemingly endless variations and feature combinations will meet your every need.