

Kelley Tandem Scissor Lift Tables Team Up to Improve Productivity & Safety for Mechanical Specialty Contractor

Equipment Focus: Kelley KLT Series Scissor Lift Table

When a company specializes in building pre-fabricated assemblies it pays to make the process as efficient as possible.

For mechanical specialty contractor [Murphy Company](#), its mission was to not only make pre-fabricating its commercial and industrial plumbing assemblies more productive but also safer for employees. For the past few years, Murphy Company has relied on two [Kelley KLT Series Scissor Lift Tables](#) in its 24,000 square-foot shop in St. Louis to achieve that goal.

Each of the two 2½-foot-wide by 20-foot-long lift tables is designed with tandem, hydraulically-controlled scissors. They work together as a team to raise and lower the lift table's work surface which is capable of handling Murphy Company's largest pre-fabricated assemblies. The two lift tables sit parallel to each other at about 10 feet apart.

Murphy Company partnered with Steve Chiaurro at [Bi-State Loading Dock Specialists \(A DH Pace Company\)](#), a long-time Kelley distributor, to procure the KLT Series Scissor Lift Tables.

According to Gary DeFosset, Murphy Company Shop Manager, the Kelley lift tables are used to build prefabricated plumbing assemblies for a variety of applications including large office complexes, hospitals, and manufacturing facilities.

He explained that the pre-fabricated final assembly process on the lift tables involves setting carriers in place, adding either PVC or cast-iron drainpipes, and then finally installing copper water lines.

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Impacts & Results



End User Focus:
Increased Productivity
Employees can work faster and more efficiently without excess bending and reaching.



Key Impact:
Improved Safety
Eliminated ergonomic challenges and the need to use risky ladders to perform work.



Financial Benefit:
Cost Savings
Reduced the risk of employee workers compensation claims due to work-related injuries.

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The final assemblies are then prepped for shipment via truck to their respective job sites. The heaviest assemblies, which can

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weigh up to a few hundred pounds, are moved using a 1-ton overhead crane while smaller assemblies are easily moved by hand.

Lift tables help save both time and money

“Building pre-fabricated plumbing assemblies off-site saves both time and money,” DeFosset emphasized. “Overall cost, labor savings, scheduling issues, and even weather at the job site all play a role with pre-fabricated plumbing assemblies that we can more easily and readily assemble in a heated and semi-cooled shop instead of at the job site.”

DeFosset pointed out that before Murphy Company installed the lift tables, the company relied on fixed assembly tables that stood about 2½ feet off the ground. The fixed tables were approximately the same dimension as the Kelley lift tables.

Ergonomic challenges eliminated

That meant Murphy Company’s plumbing assembly teams had to perform a lot of bending, reaching, and even climb short ladders while performing their work. “With the Kelley lift tables, our employees no longer have to sit on buckets, pull muscles when reaching up high, or even risk falling when climbing a ladder,” DeFosset stressed. “The lift tables easily eliminated all of that.”

Lowering the tables to near floor level also makes it much easier to work on the highest parts of the plumbing assemblies.



DeFosset added that the ergonomic improvements were substantial when Murphy Company transitioned from fixed assembly tables to the lift tables which are raised and lowered with easy-to-operate foot pedals.

“Adding the lift tables was just as important of a productivity improvement move as it was one to improve employee safety and comfort. They cut down on the need to keep bending over during the workday, especially at the knees. You can only do that so many times during an average shift, so the lift tables helped to alleviate those kinds of ergonomic challenges,” DeFosset concluded.



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