

Product: Carts/Racks

Variations: Wire carts, solid stainless carts, two or three shelf, polymer carts. Wire pan racks, aluminum pan racks, end-load or side-load racks, adjustable racks, either open or enclosed, roll-in refrigerator racks.

General: Carts and racks should be specified to meet a specific need. If the cart is to be used for clean-up, a polymer, two or three shelf cart might be best because it is quiet, strong, and easy to clean. If the cart is to be used for mobile transport of light equipment, such as a food processor or a slicer, a stainless steel two shelf cart might be best, for strength and for holding accessories on the lower shelf.

Racks are either riveted or solid, or are shipped “knocked down” for ease of assembly and for reduced shipping costs. They are generally used for transport and storage of specific types of pans.

Differences: Usually, lighter loads are used on polymer or wire carts and heavier loads are put onto stainless steel carts. However, there are many classifications of strength. While stainless steel carts may look heavier, some units are lighter gauge steel, with a potential for easy bending or folding when heavy objects are dropped on them. Stainless carts are also considerably more expensive than polymer carts or wire carts.

Racks are bought either with the pans loaded from the end or from the side. The spacing between the pans is critical for maximum utilization of the rack. For school foodservice, usually an aluminum, end load rack with 3" or 5" spacing is most often purchased.

Required Information: For carts, the intended use, and the size required. For racks, the size of the product to be transported or stored, and the required distance between the slides.

Concerns: The greatest cause for concern with carts is durability and cleanability. A cart that is quiet and easy to move but that breaks shortly after purchase is no bargain. Also, a very expensive cart, very heavy duty, that is being used to move pans from the kitchen to the line, is an inefficient use of your kitchen dollars.



Product: Carts/Racks **Quantity:** _____
Manufacturer: _____ **Model #:** _____

Cart Size: 18" x 24" 21" x 36"
 18" x 30" 24" x 36"
 18" x 36" other *specify:* _____

Cart Type: Number of shelves (Two, Three, etc.) *specify:* _____
 Wire shelves
 Solid stainless steel shelves
 Polymer shelves
 Color (Gray, Beige, Blue, other) *specify:* _____

Rack Size: For 12" x 20" pans For 15" x 20" trays
 For 14" x 18" pans For 16" x 22" trays
 For 18" x 26" pans For 20" x 20" trays

Rack Type: End load rack
 Side load rack
 Roll-in refrigerator rack

Rack Spacing: 1 ½" spacing
 3" spacing
 5" spacing
 Adjustable

Options: Corner bumpers
 Continuous bumpers
 Pan stops
 Floor locks (check with rep or dealer for available options)

Spec: Other pertinent information should accompany the above to provide a spec that looks something like this:

Five (5) utility carts, each to be 24" x 36", with two shelves, of polymer construction, to be teaberry color. Unit to have handle molded into top shelf and 5" casters.

