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Plate Casters: Complete Industrial Buying Guide

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Quick answer. Spec a plate caster with four decisions in order: plate size and bolt pattern, load rating per caster ((gross weight ÷ 3) × 1.33 safety factor), wheel material and diameter, and rig construction. Plate size sets capacity: a 2.5 × 3.625 inch plate tops out near 350 lb, a 4.5 × 6.25 inch plate reaches 2,500 lb.

Plate Size Chart by Duty Class

Duty Class	Plate Size	Typical Wheel	Load Range
Light	2.5 x 3.625 in	2-4 in	100-350 lb
Medium	3.625 x 5 in	3-5 in	300-800 lb
Heavy	4 x 4.5 in	4-6 in	500-1,400 lb
Extra Heavy	4.5 x 6.25 in	5-8 in	1,000-2,500 lb
Super Duty	5.25 x 7.25 in+	6-12 in	2,500-10,000 lb

Swivel vs Rigid Configuration on 4-Caster Carts

Configuration	Best For	Drawback	Typical Cart
2 swivel + 2 rigid (front/rear)	Straight tracking	Larger turning radius	Production carts
4 swivel	Omnidirectional	Hard to control at speed	Parts-bin carts
Diagonal	Long-cart tracking	Unusual, harder to source	Custom platforms
6-caster center raise	Long carts, stability	Complex geometry	Carts over 8 ft long
Powered tow	AGV / continuous	Kingpinless required	AGV platforms



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