

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be extended with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually an excellent way to lengthen the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is really important to apply oil occasionally with a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be enough to be able to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

During lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur that can lead to some components to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.