

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be extended with good care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is an excellent method in order to lengthen the capability of this particular lift truck part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be sufficient to be able to prevent any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur that could result in some parts to wear out sooner or later. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring proper lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when the chain is loose and then all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario takes place, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.