

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains could be lengthened with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is actually a great technique in order to extend the capability of this particular forklift part. It is important to apply oil every so often using a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be adequate 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 properly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is common for a few metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This can cause components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has happened. So as to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place when the chain is loose and then all of a sudden 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 particular situation occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.