

Chain for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be lengthened with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually an excellent method to prolong the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is important to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be sufficient so as to prevent any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen which can lead to a few components to wear out sooner or later. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to avoid the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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.

So as to ensure good 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 assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if the chain is loose and then suddenly 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 particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation happens, the lift chains should be replaced right away. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.