

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be extended significantly with proper care and maintenance. For example, right lubrication is actually the most effectual way to be able to prolong the service capability of this particular part. It is important to apply oil occasionally using a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be sufficient to be able to stop whatever 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 situation has happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place through lift chain operation. This could result in components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3 percent elongation has occurred. So as to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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.

Another factor to ensuring proper 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if 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. With no good lubrication, in this case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.