

Forklift Chains

Chains for Forklifts - The life of lift chains on lift trucks can actually be extended completely with proper maintenance and care. Like for instance, correct lubrication is actually the most effectual method in order to extend the service capability of this part. It is vital to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be sufficient so as to stop any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place that could cause several components to wear out in due course. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary possibility 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 be able to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place if 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 case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.