

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chains - The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be lengthened with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually an excellent technique so as to prolong the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is really essential to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whichever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough to be able to avoid any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is very imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen that can result in several parts to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker highly recommends 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 could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about 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 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 proper lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario takes place, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.