

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can be lengthened with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is an excellent way to extend the capability of this lift truck part. It is really vital to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be adequate to be able to prevent whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur which can lead to 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 stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the maker highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To ensure correct lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly 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 proper lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation takes place, the lift chains need to be replaced right away. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.