

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could be prolonged greatly with good care and maintenance. For example, correct lubrication is actually the most effectual way to be able to lengthen the service capability of this component. It is essential to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or whatever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be enough to be able to stop whichever 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 condition has occurred, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

During lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen that could result in several components to wear out in the end. When 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 very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens 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.

One more 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 put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens 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. With no good lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains have to be replaced right away. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.