

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks can actually be prolonged greatly with proper maintenance and care. Like for instance, correct lubrication is the most effectual method to extend the service capability of this component. It is really important to apply oil every so often with a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be enough so as to prevent whichever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen which can result in a few parts to wear out in the end. 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 prevent the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together 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 happens 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. Without the proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.