

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks can actually be prolonged greatly with good maintenance and care. For example, right lubrication is the most efficient method in order to extend the service capability of this part. It is essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be adequate in order to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is really essential to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen which could result in some components to wear out in due course. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to stop the scary possibility of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of 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 correct lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider 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. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.