

Chain for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be extended greatly with proper maintenance and care. For instance, correct lubrication is actually the most effectual way to extend the service capability of this part. It is important to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be enough so as to avoid any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place through lift chain operation. This can result in parts to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when three percent elongation has happened. To be able to prevent the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly suggests 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.

To ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about 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. Usually, 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 good lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation happens, the lift chains have to be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.