

Forklift Chain

Chains for Forklift - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be extended greatly with correct maintenance and care. Like for instance, correct lubrication is actually the most effective way to lengthen the service capability of this part. It is really important to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be enough so as to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place which could lead to several parts to wear out eventually. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to prevent the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the maker greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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.

Another factor to ensuring correct 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 takes place if the chain is loose and then suddenly 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 particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.