

Chains for Forklift

Chain for Forklifts - The life of the forklift lift chains can be prolonged with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually a great way so as to extend the capability of this forklift component. It is essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be enough to be able to avoid whatever 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 occurred, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

During lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur which can cause some components to wear out eventually. When there is three 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 disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure good lift chain maintenance, one more 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 frequently 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 particular situation happens, the lift chains must be replaced right away. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.