

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chains - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be lengthened with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is a great way to lengthen the capability of this particular forklift part. It is essential to apply oil every so often using a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be enough in order to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur which could result in several components to wear out sooner or later. When there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly recommends 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 is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly 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. With no good lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.