

Chain for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be extended with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually a great way to lengthen the capability of this forklift component. It is really vital to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application should be enough in order to prevent whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This can result in components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has occurred. To be able to stop the scary possibility 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 that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To ensure proper 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly 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 scenario happens, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.