

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains could actually be extended with good maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually a great way to be able to prolong the capability of this lift truck part. It is really essential to apply oil every so often with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be adequate so as to stop 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 occurred, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is common for several metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This can cause parts to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary possibility of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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.

So as to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place if the chain is loose and then all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no correct lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.