

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be extended greatly with proper maintenance and care. Like for example, correct lubrication is the most effective method to be able to extend the service capability of this component. It is really important to apply oil every so often with a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be adequate to be able to avoid any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place which can lead to a few components to wear out in the end. Once there is three 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 catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

One more factor to ensuring proper 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when 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. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains should be replaced immediately. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.