

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains could be lengthened with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is an excellent method in order to extend the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be sufficient 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 condition has happened, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen during lift chain operation. This could result in components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has occurred. So as to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring correct lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation happens, the lift chains need to be replaced right away. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.