

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could be lengthened greatly with proper care and maintenance. For example, correct lubrication is the most effective method so as to lengthen the service capability of this component. It is really vital to apply oil every so often making use of a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be enough so as to prevent whatever rust discoloration of oil within 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 important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is normal for several metal to metal contact to happen during lift chain operation. This can cause parts to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. So as to prevent the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the maker highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To be able to ensure good 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 put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when 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 could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains need to be replaced right away. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.