

Forklift Chain

Chains for Forklifts - The life of the forklift lift chains can be lengthened with good maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually an excellent technique to be able to lengthen the capability of this lift truck part. It is vital to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be adequate to be able 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 condition has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur which can lead to several components to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to prevent the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker very much suggests 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 can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place 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. Without the good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation occurs, the lift chains have to be replaced right away. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.