

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks could be extended significantly with correct maintenance and care. For example, right lubrication is the most effectual technique to be able to prolong the service capability of this component. It is really important to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be sufficient to be able to stop any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular condition has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is common for several metal to metal contact to occur during lift chain operation. This can lead to components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3 percent elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer very much 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 is capable of being 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 signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. 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. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.