

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be prolonged significantly with good maintenance and care. For instance, right lubrication is the most efficient method to prolong the service capability of this part. It is really important to apply oil every so often with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to 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 properly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

All through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur which could result in some components to wear out in the long run. When there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to prevent the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent 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 put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently 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. With no proper lubrication, in this case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.