

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be lengthened with good maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually a great way to be able to extend the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is important to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be sufficient so as to prevent any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains at once.

All through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen that could cause a few components to wear out in due course. As soon as there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled 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 takes place when 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 situation happens, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.