

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be lengthened with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually a great technique so as to lengthen the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really essential to apply oil every so often with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be enough to be able to prevent 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 situation has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

During lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur which can lead to several parts to wear out in the end. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure correct 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if 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 proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains need to be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.