

Chain for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can be prolonged with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually a great technique so as to prolong the capability of this lift truck component. It is essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be sufficient to be able to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is typical for a few metal to metal contact to take place through 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 if 3% elongation has happened. To be able to prevent the scary possibility of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.