

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be prolonged greatly with good maintenance and care. For instance, correct lubrication is the most effectual technique to extend the service capability of this component. It is vital to apply oil occasionally with a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application should 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 correctly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place that could cause several components 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. To be able to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring proper 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if the chain is loose and then suddenly 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 situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.