

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be prolonged significantly with good maintenance and care. Like for example, correct lubrication is the most efficient method to be able to lengthen the service capability of this part. It is really important to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough so as to avoid 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 condition has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

All through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place that can result in several parts to wear out eventually. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to prevent the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure good lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about 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 often caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when 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 proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced immediately. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.