

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be prolonged greatly with proper care and maintenance. Like for example, right lubrication is the most efficient method in order to lengthen the service capability of this part. It is really important to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be adequate so as to avoid whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is normal for a few metal to metal contact to occur during lift chain operation. This can result in components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. To be able to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs 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 commonly 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. With no correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.