

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be prolonged significantly with proper care and maintenance. For example, correct lubrication is the most effective technique to prolong the service capability of this part. It is really essential to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be sufficient in order to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place which could result in a few parts to wear out in the long run. Once there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker highly suggests 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.

Another factor to ensuring proper lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens 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 situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.