

Forklift Chains

Chain for Forklift - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be extended with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is actually a great technique so as to prolong the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really vital to apply oil every so often using a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be adequate 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 particular condition has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur that could cause some components to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic 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 lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being 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 assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, 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 experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced immediately. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.