

Chains for Forklifts

Chain for Forklift - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be extended greatly with good maintenance and care. For instance, right lubrication is actually the most efficient way in order to lengthen the service capability of this component. It is essential to apply oil every so often making use of a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be sufficient to be able to stop any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

During lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place which could lead to several components to wear out in the end. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear that 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 assembled 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 takes place when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation happens, the lift chains need to be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.