

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be lengthened significantly with good care and maintenance. For instance, correct lubrication is actually the most efficient way so as to extend the service capability of this component. It is really essential to apply oil every so often utilizing a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough so as to prevent any 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 happened, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place through lift chain operation. This can lead to components to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. So as to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 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.

To be able to ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario takes place, the lift chains should be replaced immediately. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.