

Forklift Chains

Chains for Forklifts - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be lengthened greatly with good care and maintenance. For example, correct lubrication is actually the most effectual method to lengthen the service capability of this part. It is important to apply oil periodically making use of a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough to be able to stop 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 particular condition has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen which can result in a few parts to wear out in the end. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently 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 experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation occurs, the lift chains should be replaced right away. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.