

Chains for Forklifts

Chains for Forklift - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be lengthened with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is a great method in order to lengthen the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is important to apply oil occasionally with a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be sufficient to be able to prevent whatever 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 imperative to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen through lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3 percent elongation has happened. To be able to prevent 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 lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

One more factor to ensuring correct 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if 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 good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains need to be replaced immediately. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.