

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can be extended with good care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is a great method to extend the capability of this forklift component. It is really important to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application should be sufficient to be able to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen that can lead to a few parts to wear out in due course. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to prevent the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.