

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be lengthened greatly with good care and maintenance. For instance, correct lubrication is actually the most effective way in order to prolong the service capability of this particular part. It is vital to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application should be enough to be able to avoid any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

During lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place which can result in some parts to wear out eventually. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to stop 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 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being 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 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 go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.