

Chain for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could be prolonged greatly with proper maintenance and care. For example, right lubrication is actually the most efficient way to prolong the service capability of this particular part. It is vital to apply oil periodically using a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be enough so as to prevent any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

All through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place which could result in some parts to wear out in due course. 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 prevent the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker highly recommends 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 good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs 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 correct lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.