

Forklift Chains

Chain for Forklift - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be prolonged with good maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually an excellent way so as to prolong the capability of this particular lift truck part. It is important to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application should be sufficient in order to avoid any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen that can result in a few parts to wear out sooner or later. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring correct lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains need to be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.