

Forklift Chain

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on lift trucks can be extended completely with good care and maintenance. For instance, right lubrication is the most effectual method so as to prolong the service capability of this particular component. It is essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be adequate so as to prevent whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is common for some metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This could cause parts to wear out in the end. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has occurred. So as to stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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 good lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, 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 proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.