

Chain for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be extended with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is an excellent way to prolong the capability of this lift truck part. It is important to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whichever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be adequate so as to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

All through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur that could result in a few parts to wear out sooner or later. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to prevent the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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.

To be able to ensure good lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about 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. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place when the chain is loose and then suddenly 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 situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.