

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks could be lengthened completely with correct care and maintenance. Like for example, correct lubrication is the most efficient method to extend the service capability of this component. It is vital to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be sufficient to be able to prevent any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is very imperative to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen through lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has happened. So as to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that 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 proper 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 put together 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 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 case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.