

Forklift Chain

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could be lengthened significantly with correct care and maintenance. Like for instance, right lubrication is the most effective method to be able to extend the service capability of this particular component. It is essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be sufficient 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 correctly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place which could cause several components to wear out in due course. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to prevent the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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 proper lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens 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. Without the proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.