

Chains for Forklifts

Chains for Forklifts - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be extended greatly with good care and maintenance. For example, correct lubrication is actually the most efficient method to be able to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is really vital to apply oil every so often using a brush or other lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application should be adequate in order 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 happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen throughout lift chain operation. This can lead to components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has happened. To be able to avoid the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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.

One more factor to ensuring good 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place if the chain is loose and then all of a sudden 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 scenario occurs, the lift chains have to be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.