

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be extended with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually a great method in order to prolong the capability of this particular lift truck part. It is important to apply oil occasionally using a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough to be able to avoid any 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 occurred, it is very imperative to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is typical for several metal to metal contact to happen throughout lift chain operation. This can result in components to wear out sooner or later. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has happened. So as to prevent the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker 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.

One more factor to ensuring proper 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently 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 correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains have to be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.