

Forklift Chain

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be lengthened significantly with proper maintenance and care. Like for example, correct lubrication is actually the most effectual way to be able to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be sufficient to be able to stop any 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 extremely important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to happen which could result in some parts 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. So as to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

One more factor to ensuring correct lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.