

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be extended with good care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is a great way to lengthen the capability of this lift truck component. It is vital to apply oil every so often using a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be sufficient in order to stop any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

Through lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place which could cause several parts to wear out eventually. Once there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to prevent the scary possibility of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another 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 put together 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 experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation occurs, the lift chains must be replaced right away. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.