

Forklift Chain

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be lengthened completely with good maintenance and care. Like for example, correct lubrication is actually the most effective way to extend the service capability of this part. It is really essential to apply oil occasionally making use of a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be enough so as to prevent 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 situation has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is common for a few metal to metal contact to happen through lift chain operation. This could result in parts to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. 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 proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains should be replaced immediately. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.