

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be lengthened with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is a great technique to extend the capability of this particular lift truck part. It is vital to apply oil every so often with a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be sufficient so as to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen that can cause a few components to wear out eventually. As soon as there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid 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 due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be 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 put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the correct lubrication, in this case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.