

Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains could be extended with good care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually a great method to lengthen the capability of this forklift part. It is important to apply oil periodically using a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be sufficient so as to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular condition has occurred, it is really essential to lubricate the lift chains right away.

All through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen which can cause some 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. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the maker highly recommends 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 can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To be able to ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when 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. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.