

Chain for Forklift

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be lengthened greatly with good maintenance and care. For example, correct lubrication is the most efficient technique to extend the service capability of this part. It is essential to apply oil every so often using a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application needs to be sufficient in order to prevent any rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur that could cause several parts to wear out eventually. As soon as there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to stop the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about 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 happens if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.