

Forklift Chain

Chains for Forklift - The life of the lift truck lift chains could actually be lengthened with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually a great method to extend the capability of this lift truck part. It is vital to apply oil periodically using a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be enough to be able to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is typical for several metal to metal contact to happen during lift chain operation. This can result in components to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has happened. So as to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

One more factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.