

Forklift Chains

Forklift Chains - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be extended with good maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually a great method so as to extend the capability of this particular lift truck component. It is really vital to apply oil every so often with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be sufficient so as to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is typical for several metal to metal contact to occur all through lift chain operation. This can cause parts to wear out eventually. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has happened. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the maker greatly suggests 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 is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

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 assembled so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs 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 correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation happens, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.