

Forklift Chain

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts can be prolonged significantly with proper maintenance and care. For example, correct lubrication is actually the most efficient way to lengthen the service capability of this part. It is essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application should be sufficient to be able to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is typical for a few metal to metal contact to occur during lift chain operation. This can cause components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has happened. To be able to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to 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 be able to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about 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 commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if 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. With no correct lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.