

## Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be prolonged with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is an excellent technique so as to lengthen the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or whatever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be sufficient to be able to avoid 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 situation has occurred, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen which can lead to a few parts to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens 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 be able to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider 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. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is often 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 experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.