

Lift Chains

The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be lengthened with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is a great method in order to lengthen the capability of this lift truck part. It is really essential to apply oil occasionally utilizing a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application should be adequate to be able to prevent any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is common for a few metal to metal contact to happen during lift chain operation. This could result in components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. In order to prevent the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer greatly recommends 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 is capable of being 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 when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no good lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains should be replaced immediately. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.