

## Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks could actually be prolonged greatly with correct maintenance and care. For example, correct lubrication is actually the most effective method to be able to prolong the service capability of this particular part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically making use of a brush or whatever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application must be adequate in order to prevent 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 particular situation has happened, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to take place during lift chain operation. This could lead to parts to wear out in the end. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3% elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much 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 is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, one more 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when 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 correct lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.