

## Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be lengthened greatly with correct care and maintenance. For example, right lubrication is the most efficient method so as to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be enough to be able to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is common for a few metal to metal contact to happen all through lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out sooner or later. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when 3 percent elongation has occurred. To be able to prevent 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 can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs 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 occurs when 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 particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains should be replaced right away. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.