

## Forklift Chains

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be prolonged completely with correct maintenance and care. For example, right lubrication is actually the most effectual way to be able to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be sufficient in order to stop any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular condition has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains right away.

All through lift chain operation it is typical for some metal to metal contact to occur that could lead to a few parts to wear out in the end. Once there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, one more factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications 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 frequently 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. With no correct lubrication, in this case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.