Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks can actually be prolonged greatly with good maintenance and care. For instance, right lubrication is actually the most effectual way to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is vital to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whatever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be adequate in order to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has occurred, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur that can result in some components to wear out in the end. When there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to prevent the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring correct 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if 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 correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.