Forklift Chain

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can be extended with good maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is an excellent way to be able to prolong the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really important to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be enough so as to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is common for several metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This can result in components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has occurred. So as to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the maker greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring proper 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 commonly 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 go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no proper lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation takes place, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.