

## Forklift Chains

Chains for Forklift - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be lengthened with good maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually an excellent way to lengthen the capability of this forklift component. It is essential to apply oil occasionally making use of a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be adequate to be able to avoid whichever 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 situation has occurred, it is extremely imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur which could lead to a few components to wear out in the long run. When there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

One more factor to ensuring proper lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when 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. Without the correct lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains have to be replaced instantly. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.