Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be extended with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is an excellent method to be able to prolong the capability of this particular forklift component. It is essential to apply oil occasionally with a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be sufficient so as to stop 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 particular situation has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is typical for a few metal to metal contact to occur throughout lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when three percent elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent 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.

So as to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs 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 takes place when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains should be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.