

## Chains for Forklifts

Chains for Forklift - The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be extended with correct maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually an excellent way to extend the capability of this lift truck part. It is essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or whatever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be sufficient in order to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular condition has happened, it is really essential to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur that can lead to some parts to wear out eventually. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to prevent the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three 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.

One more factor to ensuring correct 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place 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. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.