

## Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks could actually be lengthened significantly with good maintenance and care. Like for example, correct lubrication is the most effective way in order to extend the service capability of this particular part. It is essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or other lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough to be able to prevent any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular condition has occurred, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains at once.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place that can result in a few components to wear out in the long run. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens due to progressive joint wear which 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 often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place if 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 situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario happens, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.