Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be lengthened greatly with correct maintenance and care. For instance, right lubrication is actually the most effective technique so as to lengthen the service capability of this particular part. It is really important to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be sufficient in order 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 situation has happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is typical for a few metal to metal contact to take place during lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3 percent elongation has happened. To be able to prevent the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from happening, the manufacturer highly recommends 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 can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, one more 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs if 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 proper lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains have to be replaced right away. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.