Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be lengthened with good maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is a great way to be able to lengthen the capability of this lift truck part. It is vital to apply oil occasionally using a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be sufficient in order to avoid any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

During lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place which can result in some components to wear out sooner or later. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to prevent the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly 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.

So as to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to think about is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are assembled 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 proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation happens, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.