

## Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chains - The life of the lift truck lift chains can actually be lengthened with proper care and maintenance. Lubricating properly is an excellent method to lengthen the capability of this forklift component. It is important to apply oil every so often with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application should be adequate to be able to prevent whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is very imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

All through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place which can result in a few parts to wear out in the long run. As soon as there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from happening, the maker very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain lengthens because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

In order to ensure good lift chain maintenance, one more 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. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens 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. With no correct lubrication, in this situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular situation takes place, the lift chains need to be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.