

## Chains for Forklifts

Chain for Forklift - The life of the forklift lift chains could actually be lengthened with correct care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is actually an excellent method in order to extend the capability of this lift truck component. It is vital to apply oil every so often making use of a brush or other lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application has to be sufficient in order to prevent whatever 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 happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen which can cause a few parts to wear out in the end. When there is three percent 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 manufacturer highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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.

Another factor to ensuring proper lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation happens, the lift chains have to be replaced instantly. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.