Forklift Chain

Forklift Chains - The life of lift chains on forklifts could be prolonged greatly with correct care and maintenance. For example, right lubrication is the most efficient way to be able to lengthen the service capability of this component. It is really essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or whichever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be sufficient in order to stop any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is extremely important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Throughout lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen which could result in some parts to wear out eventually. When there is three percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to prevent the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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.

One more 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when 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 proper lubrication, in this situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains must be replaced right away. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.