

## Forklift Chains

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can actually be prolonged with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is a great method to prolong the capability of this forklift component. It is essential to apply oil every so often making use of a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application must be adequate in order to prevent 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 condition has occurred, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is typical for a few metal to metal contact to occur through lift chain operation. This can cause parts to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if three percent elongation has occurred. To be able to stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer 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 correct lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, 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 good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario occurs, the lift chains must be replaced instantly. It is imperative to always replace the lift chains in pairs to be able to ensure even wear.