

## Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on forklifts could actually be prolonged greatly with good maintenance and care. For example, correct lubrication is the most efficient way to prolong the service capability of this particular part. It is vital to apply oil every so often with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application must be adequate so as to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is common for several metal to metal contact to take place during lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out in the long run. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. To be able to avoid the scary likelihood of a disastrous lift chain failure from occurring, the maker very much recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 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.

Another factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Generally, rotation of the clevis pins is often caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place if 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 correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.