

## Chain for Forklifts

Chains for Forklift - The life of lift chains on forklifts can actually be extended significantly with good care and maintenance. Like for instance, right lubrication is actually the most effective way to be able to extend the service capability of this particular component. It is vital to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application has to be enough in order to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is really imperative to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

During lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to occur that could lead to a few parts to wear out eventually. As soon as 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 avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer highly recommends 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 could be 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 indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together 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 all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this particular scenario happens, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.