

## Forklift Chain

Chains for Forklifts - The life of the lift truck lift chains could actually be extended with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually an excellent method to extend the capability of this forklift component. It is really vital to apply oil periodically with a brush or whichever lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be adequate in order to avoid whatever rust discoloration of oil within the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is normal for several metal to metal contact to occur through lift chain operation. This can cause components to wear out in time. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if three percent elongation has happened. So as to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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.

Another factor to ensuring good 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 often 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 proper lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.