

## Chains for Forklift

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be prolonged with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually an excellent way to be able to extend the capability of this particular forklift part. It is important to apply oil occasionally using a brush or whichever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be sufficient to be able to avoid whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration usually signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this particular situation has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to take place through lift chain operation. This can cause parts to wear out in the end. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if 3% elongation has occurred. In order to avoid the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation can be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

So as to ensure good lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Usually, 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 takes place, the lift chains must be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.