

Lift Chains

The life of lift chains on lift trucks could be lengthened significantly with correct care and maintenance. Like for example, correct lubrication is the most effective technique to be able to prolong the service capability of this particular component. It is essential to apply oil every so often making use of a brush or other lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application should be enough to be able to prevent 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 condition has occurred, it is really essential to lubricate the lift chains at once.

It is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur throughout 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 stop the scary chance of a disastrous lift chain failure from taking place, the maker greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being 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 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 frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when the chain is loose and then all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the good lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains must be replaced immediately. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.