## Chains for Forklifts

Chains for Forklifts - The life of the lift truck lift chains could be extended with good care and maintenance. Lubricating correctly is an excellent way to be able to prolong the capability of this forklift part. It is vital to apply oil every so often utilizing a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be enough so as to stop 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 occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

During lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to happen that can cause several components to wear out in the long run. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. So as to stop the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker greatly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% 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. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently 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. With no good lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs so as to ensure even wear.