

## Lift Chains

The life of the lift truck lift chains can be lengthened with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating correctly is actually a great way in order to extend the capability of this particular forklift component. It is really essential to apply oil periodically with a brush or other lube application tool. The volume and frequency of oil application must be sufficient in order to prevent whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is extremely essential to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

It is common for some metal to metal contact to take place through lift chain operation. This could cause components to wear out sooner or later. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out when three percent elongation has happened. In order to avoid the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the manufacturer very much suggests 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 is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To be able to ensure correct lift chain maintenance, one more factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading occurs when 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 proper lubrication, in this particular case, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario occurs, the lift chains have to be replaced instantly. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.