

Stenter Chain Maintenance Checklist

The annual service routine: clean, lubricate, gauge the pitch, inspect the rail, and decide service against replacement by measurement rather than by judgement.

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Service Schedule

Task	Interval
Clean guide and chain	at least once a year
Grease	high temperature product, e.g. DuPont, Miller, Kluber
Gauge chain pitch	at every annual service
Inspect guide rail	at every annual service
Measure slider and bush wear	at every annual service
Brush wheel replacement	on schedule, not on complaint

Step By Step

1. Annual clean

Clean the guide and chain at least once a year. Fresh grease over old residue does not do the job, and residue build-up is what shortens the life of the parts you have just fitted.

2. Lubricate correctly

Add a high temperature grease. A chain oil for this duty needs viscosity and adhesion so it resists sling-off at speed, high temperature stability, anti-wear and anti-corrosion additives, and low friction. Apply at the articulating interfaces, not over the outside of the chain.

3. Gauge the pitch

This is the measurement that decides everything else. While chain pitch gauges within tolerance, replacing wear parts is the better value. Once elongation stops the pin bed being held in register, no amount of wear part replacement recovers it.

4. Service the wear parts

Bushes and wear sleeves go long before connectors and pins do. Replace them along a whole section rather than individually, and check pin condition while the bushes are out, because a worn pin destroys a new bush.

5. Inspect the rail at the same time

A new chain on a worn rail does not last. Rail condition also decides whether you can run PEEK sliders or should stay on copper, so this inspection is not optional.

6. Plan the replacement

Track elongation year on year and the replacement stops being an emergency. Chain sections, with holders and pin plates already fitted, remove most of the shutdown labour when the time comes.

What A Stenter Chain Consists Of

Connectors, U-shaped connectors, pins, PEEK bushes, PEEK dust cover screws, wear sleeves and other components. Each wears at its own rate, and bushes and sleeves go long before the connectors do. Every one of these parts is sold individually, so most chains can be serviced rather than replaced. The PEEK bush is a wear-resistant lining between the pin and the chain replacing the original copper mesh lining; because PEEK is self-lubricating it is more wear resistant and has a longer service life, and it can be changed easily.

Choosing A Chain Oil

Property	Why it matters
Viscosity and adhesion	High viscosity oils with good adhesive properties stay on the chain longer and reduce sling-off, especially at high speeds.
High temperature resistance	The machinery operates at elevated temperatures and the oil must stay stable there.
Anti-wear and anti-corrosion	These additives prevent excessive wear and protect against rust, especially in humid or corrosive environments.
Reduced friction	Improves efficiency and extends the chain's lifespan.

High temperature greases from DuPont, Miller and Kluber are used on stenter chains by our customers. Clean the guide and chain at least once a year.