



Horse Trailer Info Sheet

Exterior and Interior Maintenance

Exterior Trailer Maintenance Checklist

- ◇ Any protruding nuts, screws, or other metal pieces that may have come loose, such as trim
- ◇ Check windows for damage:
 - ◇ Make sure latches all work
 - ◇ Windows open and close freely
- ◇ Make sure all hinges, such as ramp hinges, door hinges, etc.:
- ◇ are functioning well
 - ◇ are properly greased if needed and are undamaged
- ◇ Check all door and entrance handles for wear and damage:
 - ◇ check that any locks are functional
- ◇ Grease the hitch ball and check for damage
- ◇ Towing chains – are they in good condition?
 - ◇ Excessive rust?
 - ◇ Fasteners/snaps are in good working order?
- ◇ Welds on the hitch system, including towing chains, are undamaged
- ◇ Rust that may cause structural integrity issues
- ◇ Look for any separation of the trailer materials from the frame, holes in the trailer
- ◇ Check wheel wells and other spaces for nests – birds, bees, wasps



Photo: Kevan Garecki

Tire Maintenance Checklist:

- ◇ Baldness in centre of tire (worn treads) – can be caused by overinflation
- ◇ Flat spots – can be caused by skidding tires and slamming on brakes
- ◇ Wear near edges of tires – can be caused by underinflation
- ◇ Wear on the sides of the tires – can be caused by an overloaded trailer or unaligned axels
- ◇ Cuts – can be caused by sharp objects on the road (for example, stones or glass), poor road conditions, body work that is protruding
- ◇ Embedded objects – such as nails, screws and the like

- ◇ Abnormal bulges in tires – can be caused from impact/running over objects
- ◇ Obvious punctures, holes, air loss
- ◇ Damaged/missing valve stem caps
- ◇ Cracks in the sidewalls and hard, dry surfaces – could be an indicator of dry rot
- ◇ This would also be a good time to check your wheel chocks to make sure they are undamaged

Interior Maintenance Checklist

Between Trips

After your trip should include doing (at minimum) the following:

- ◇ Remove all hay, feed, water buckets
- ◇ Take out all floor mats, sweep, then sweep again, paying special attention to areas where hay and debris might get trapped (corners, hinges, spaces in the floor)
- ◇ Clean walls of any manure/urine stains
- ◇ This is a good time to inspect the interior surfaces and note if there are any loose/protruding screws/nails/bolts or other metal, new dents or holes, damaged fasteners, etc.
- ◇ Inspect dividers, bars, windows, doors, etc. to ensure optimum operation – this includes locks – yes, the keyholes need cleaning too!
- ◇ Check the condition (look for rips and tears) and clean any padded surfaces
- ◇ Examine the ramp for any loose pieces (mats, fasteners, etc.), wear, holes
- ◇ Look for unwanted guests that may have taken up residence, such as birds, wasps, bees
- ◇ Sweep and wash floor mats, if time and weather permits, and you can let them dry completely before putting them back in the trailer



Photo: Robert Nagle