



EQUINE GUELPH helping horses for life



Horse Trailer Info Sheet

Exterior and Interior Maintenance

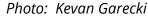
Exterior Trailer Maintenance Checklist

- 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

Tire Maintenance Checklist:

- Baldness in centre of tire (worn treads) can be caused by overinflation \Diamond
- Flat spots can be caused by skidding tires and slamming on brakes \Diamond
- 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







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- Abnormal bulges in tires can be caused from impact/running over objects
- Obvious punctures, holes, air loss \Diamond
- Damaged/missing valve stem caps \Diamond
- Cracks in the sidewalls and hard, dry surfaces could be an indicator of dry rot \Diamond
- 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



Photo: Robert Nagle

- 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