

TIPS FOR MOVING-FLOOR DRIVERS



Maintenance of upper rails

Almost all moving-floor trailers have a movable bulkhead. This bulkhead ensures fast, clean unloading as it moves to the back of the trailer with the moving floor along with the load. The movable bulkhead is suspended from rollers with bearings that can roll forwards or backwards within the upper rail (see photo). The Knapen Trailers rollers have brushes fitted as standard that repeatedly clean the upper rail. However, there are types of material which cannot be adequately cleaned by just these brushes. If the rail is not cleaned properly, the movable bulkhead can jam, which makes unloading more difficult. Or, worse still, it can damage the upper rail by bending it open or wearing it away. This causes problems for drivers and incurs costs for fleet owners. Therefore it is important that this upper rail be maintained properly. So Knapen Trailers' specialists have a few tips for keeping your upper rail in tip-top condition:



Tip 1: Clean the upper rail twice a week

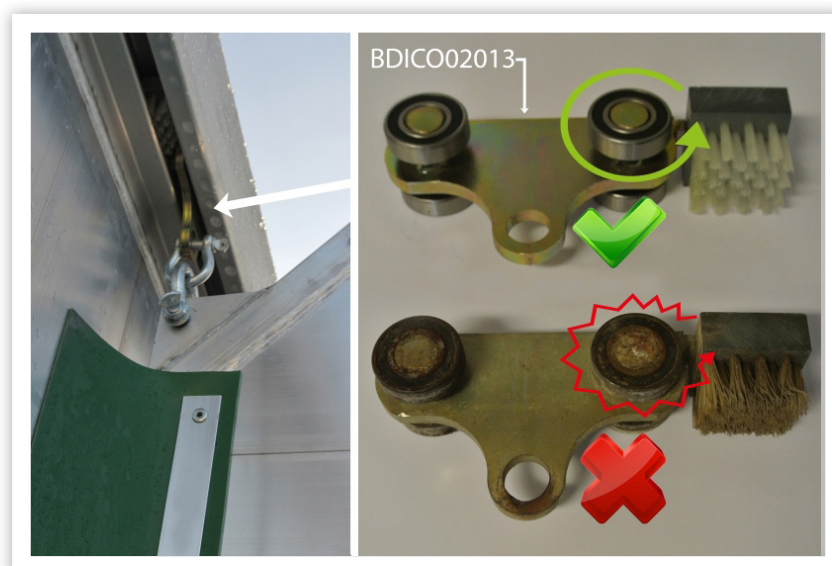
To ensure that your moving-floor trailer retains a high residual value it is important that you clean the upper rail regularly. In the case of normal daily usage twice-weekly cleaning is sufficient. The best way to clean your upper rail is to use an air pistol (see photo), which is naturally available from your dealer. If a lot of dirt completely jams the upper rail, the moving floor can tear the bottom sheet of the movable bulkhead. Another major reason for cleaning is that it removes minor dirt and dust that can clog the roller bearings. Once these bearings are dirty, they scratch the upper rail instead of rolling over it. So it is important to remove dust to promote the life of your upper rail.



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Tip 2: When transporting dry, dusty products, clean the upper rail after each unloading

If you are transporting dry or dusty products, it is recommended that you clean your upper rail after each unloading. Products such as dry wood chips, sawdust, sand, cereal or shredded coconut produce a lot of dry dust, which gets into the upper rail. The upper rail on the right side (left side in the UK and in the case of side-door trailers) is the most vulnerable to this as it is opposite the loading side. Although the brush at the front of the rollers removes a lot of dust, if the upper rail is not cleaned properly by the driver some dust gets between the roller bearings, and in time the bearings will jam (see photo). Once they have jammed, the stationary bearings will scratch the upper rail. Over time the upper rail will wear away. Repairing this is expensive as the upper rail is secured with welds for strength.



Tip 3: Check the bearings and the brushes of the rollers regularly

To ensure that you do not have to pay for an expensive repair to your worn upper rail, you should regularly check the bearings and brushes of the rollers. You can simply check the brush visually, and you can check the bearings by testing the resistance of the movable bulkhead. If it is difficult to move, the bearings are probably dirty and you are damaging your upper rail. You then need to replace the rollers immediately. You can order the rollers (BDICO02013) from your dealer.

Saving money:

To summarise the savings: Clean the upper rail as this will save you spending money on new rollers. If the rollers jam, replace them immediately as this is cheaper than repairing a worn upper rail. If you remember this, you will save a lot of money. A pretty good deal!

Are you a driver of a moving-floor trailer with a handy tip for your colleagues? Send your tip to Marketing@knapen-trailers.nl and you could see it featured in the next newsletter.

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