

TIPS FOR MOVING-FLOOR DRIVERS

Coupling and uncoupling

You will find a new tip for moving-floor drivers in each newsletter. Highlighting the subject of Lowest Cost of Ownership, driver tips are geared towards enabling your drivers to reduce cost.

By properly coupling and uncoupling a moving-floor trailer you can prevent unnecessary wear and thereby expenses. It also provides drivers an advantage in terms of ease of use. The Knapen Trailers specialist offers you two helpful tips to avoid unnecessary wear and work.

Tip 1: Save on grease

When coupling a moving-floor trailer, it is important that the fifth wheel of the truck touches the trailer just in front of the kingpin. When you have a low fifth wheel, please make sure you drive backwards under the trailer without touching the king pin plate under the trailer. The fifth wheel should only be lifted just in front of the kingpin. As a result, the lubricating grease that's on the fifth wheel will not be wiped off onto the front part under the semi-trailer, but right on the spot at the kingpin where it is needed. This will avoid wear on the truck and on the trailer, because there will always be enough grease left. Moreover, you'll always save on grease (= money) and less dirty work in greasing the fifth wheel over again.

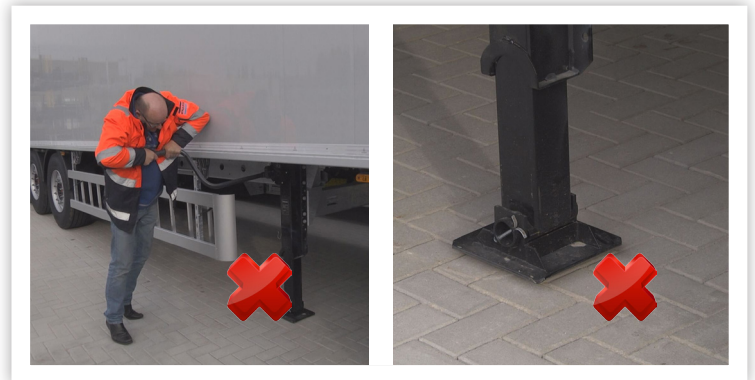


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Tip 2: Make sure the support legs keep running lightly

When coupling and uncoupling, it is important that the trailer's support legs are lifted up to 5 cm above the ground. This is simply done by the suspension of the rear axle of the truck. If you fail to do so, you will exert significant force on the supporting legs every time. In addition, the lifting will also reduce wear on the supporting legs and thus reduce costs. But not only that: if the support legs get a shock too often, the hand spindle will start turning more heavily and you'll have to exert more and more force. This lowers your operating comfort.

Below you'll find an overview of the correct way to couple and uncouple a moving-floor trailer:



Coupling:

1. Position the truck in a straight line in front of the trailer, on flat premises.
2. Drive the truck to 20 cm in front of the kingpin (fifth wheel under the trailer). Do this without touching the trailer and thus without losing grease.
3. Lift up the truck far enough so that the fifth wheel almost touches the king pin plate.
4. Couple.
5. Lift up the trailer far enough so that the support legs are 5 cm off the ground.
6. Only then, check if the trailer is attached by gently driving forward.
7. Plug in connections, hoses and electrics.
8. Then turn in the support legs and you're ready to go

Uncoupling:

1. Position the trailer on flat premises. The truck is aligned with the trailer.
2. Lift up the trailer as high as possible through the rear axle suspension of the truck
3. Turn the support legs down to 5 cm above the ground
4. Remove hoses, connections and electrics
5. Release the kingpin
6. Move the truck forward 20 cm
7. Lower the truck's rear axle to minimum height
8. Now drive the truck fully from under the trailer, so without touching the trailer and without wasting grease.

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.