

Savings with your roof sheet



The roof sheet is not just there to protect your cargo. Did you know you can also save costs with your roof sheet? Driving with the roof sheet closed will cut down on fuel consumption. But in some cases the opposite applies: parking the trailer with the sheet open will save you costs by preventing damage. The Knapen Trailers specialists are happy to help you save costs by sharing their tips on the right moment to open or close the roof sheet.



Tip 1

Always drive with the roof sheet closed to save fuel

If a trailer is driven with an open roof sheet, the air current is drawn into the trailer and will whirl against the inside of the rear doors. This creates a lot of air resistance which leads to significantly higher fuel consumption. Research has shown that driving with the roof sheet closed saves up to 4% fuel compared with driving with the sheet open. So it's good for the environment and for your wallet!





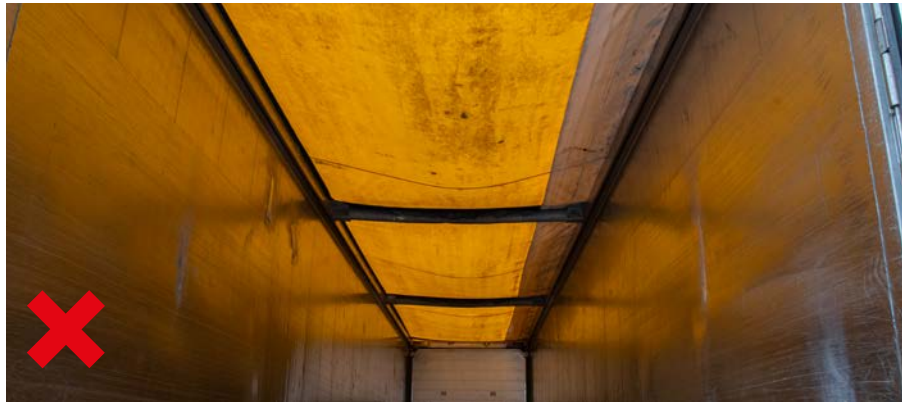
Tip 2

Prevent damage caused by bad weather

Rain or snow can cause water to accumulate on the roof sheet. The weight of the water or snow makes the roof sheet sag, so that eventually a large pool of water will have collected. This isn't necessarily a problem when driving as the wind or movement of the trailer taking corners will help the water run off. But, this is a completely different story when the trailer is parked. If too much water is allowed to pool on the roof sheet, the weight can cause high enough pressure to distort the sheet. So much in fact that the sheet is prevented from reverting to its original state and is left permanently damaged. So if rain is forecast, park your trailer with the roof sheet open. Not possible, because the cargo has to be kept dry, for example? Then tension two straps lengthwise in the trailer from front to back to support the sheet.

Every Knapen trailer has lashing eyes at the front and back. Alternatively, you can place a pipe in the sheet. Parking your trailer after a long trip? Tension the straps again to secure them. While driving, the roof sheet has settled so the straps are no longer tensioned as tightly. Cranking the ratchet again will pull the roof sheet taut, so that less rain or snow can collect on the sheet.

If you have a trailer of a different brand, you can have eyes fitted by your dealer or service partner so that straps can be attached or a pipe placed in the roof sheet. Another option is to slide planks between the sheet and the bars so the roof sheet is supported well.



With lengthwise straps always make sure the ratchet is positioned underneath the strap to prevent damage to the roof sheet.



Tip 3

Allow ammonia and other vapours to escape as much as possible

Do you transport manure and suchlike? This type of load releases ammonia which cannot escape through a closed roof sheet. Household waste or other organic substances also release vapours that can build up in a closed trailer. There is no need to worry about such high pressure forming that the roof sheet will be damaged. However, these vapours can have a negative effect on the rollers of the moveable bulk head. The aggressive, high concentration of ammonia or vapours released by waste will make the rollers start to rust. For the same reason we advise you to open the roof sheet to ventilate the trailer if it is stationary for a longer period.



Tip 4

Prevent a vacuum in the trailer

Some types of cargo are loaded relatively warm into your trailer. So pay attention when you park your trailer in the evening with the roof sheet closed. The temperature cools at night and causes the air in the trailer to shrink which creates a vacuum with the roof sheet. This effect can even be severe enough to warp the bars. So with warm loads, make sure the air above the load can escape.

Do this by leaving the roof sheet partially or completely open. The cargo has to be kept dry? Then insert an object underneath the sheet, for example at the platform, to ventilate the trailer while the load remains dry. Another option is air vents. These will also keep the trailer dry. You can have air vents installed in your rear doors or head board by your dealer or service partner.





Extra tip

So opening or closing the roof sheet at the right time can save unnecessary fuel costs and prevent potential damage. At the same time, opening and closing the roof sheet requires quite some effort from the driver. This may be the reason we regularly see empty moving floor trailers on the road with an open sheet (high fuel costs), or parked trailers with a closed sheet (risk of damage). The solution? An automatic roof sheet, such as the proven [PowerSheet®](#) or the Ecotop. The costs will be recouped in no time!



SPARE PARTS

To order spare parts, please contact your [dealer](#) or [service partner](#)



BDIC070006
Elastic 11mm L=3500



BDIC023007
Strap 50 mm L=15 m.
Yellow 5 tons



BDIC070009
Strap with buckle 3.5m.
Grey



BDIC056003
Ratchet



BDIC002013
Roller + brush

Tip: Print out these tips and hang them up in the company canteen for your colleagues to read.

Are you a driver on a moving floor trailer and do you have a useful tip for your colleagues? Then send your tip to marketing@knapen-trailers.nl and maybe your tip will be published in the next newsletter.

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