

Uncoupling a loaded trailer

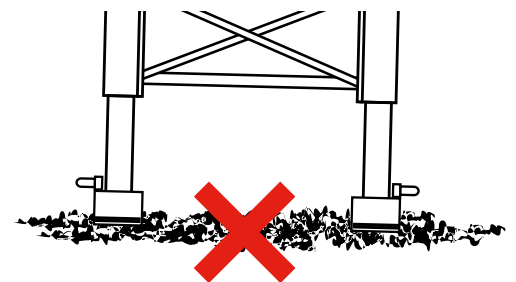
Coupling and uncoupling a moving floor trailer correctly prevents wear, damage and therefore unnecessary costs. [Driver's tip no. 12](#) explained how to couple and uncouple an empty trailer in detail. In practice, however, a trailer is not always empty when it is uncoupled. Sometimes a trailer has to be uncoupled when fully loaded. For example, during intermodal transport or when the cargo can only be unloaded at a later date. The procedure for uncoupling a loaded trailer is different to the procedure for an empty trailer. The Knapen Trailers specialists are happy to explain how to avoid unnecessary damage.



Tip 1

Always place the trailer on a firm, hard surface.

The landing legs of a loaded trailer always exert extreme pressure on the surface. There is a high risk of unnecessary damage if the landing legs are lowered onto a surface that is too soft. This will also make it difficult to couple the trailer again. If in doubt, position a plate under the landing legs to distribute the pressure over a larger surface.

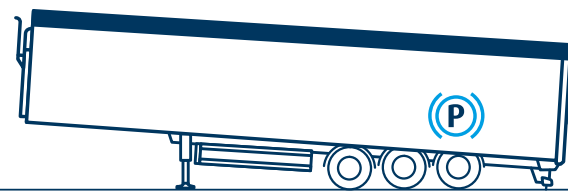
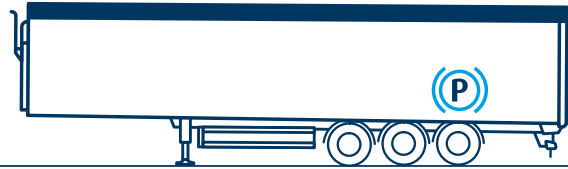




Tip 2

Be aware that your trailer can lower suddenly.

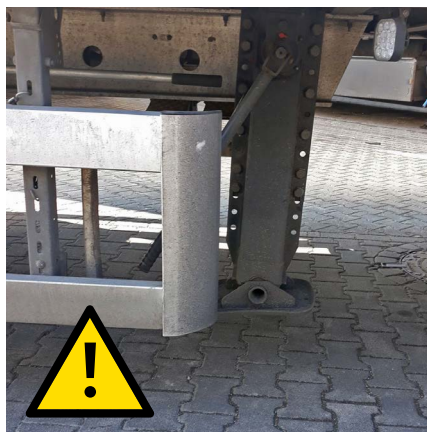
The suspension of your trailer is operated by air pressure. If air is pumped into the bags, the trailer will lift. If the air pressure drops, your trailer will lower too. Are you uncoupling the trailer? In this case, the air pressure will always drop over time. This may happen faster with an older trailer than a newer model, but eventually the air pressure will drop. Every trailer, regardless of the brand, will lower sooner or later. It is important that you as a driver are aware of this phenomenon.



Tip 3

Always leave a full trailer in the lowest position

Perhaps you wonder: "Why does it matter if my trailer lowers a little? Surely it can cope with that?" You're right, of course it can... as long as the trailer's brake has not been applied, the lowering movement will be absorbed by the wheels turning a little. But..., this isn't the case with an uncoupled trailer, as you apply the parking brakes as a matter of course when leaving the trailer. This prevents the wheels from absorbing the lowering movement by turning a little. As a result of this effect, high forces can be exerted on the landing legs and the landing leg section. This can cause permanent damage, with all the corresponding financial consequences. To avoid this damage, always leave a fully loaded trailer in its lowest position. After you have placed the trailer in the lowest position on a firm surface, follow the steps described in [Drivers' tip no. 12](#) to complete uncoupling.





Tip 4

Select the correct landing leg foot

A so-called air spring foot is better at absorbing the forces created by a loss of air pressure with an uncoupled trailer. If you often uncouple your trailer loaded, landing legs with air spring feet are recommended. Make sure that even with air spring feet you also lower your fully loaded trailer completely before uncoupling. Please contact our [dealers](#) or [service partners](#) for installation.



Tip 5

Have your trailer regularly check for air leaks

Do you visit a service point workshop? Have your trailer checked for air leaks. To have air leaks checked for and corrected on all brands of moving floor trailers, you can of course contact our [dealers](#) or [service partners](#)

Spare Parts

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

**BHYC010132**

Air suspension pressure measurement

**BDIC047443**

Air connection red

**BDIC047444**

Air connection yellow

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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