

# Enclosed Cargo Trailer Maintenance

## Guide by [MakeMyTrailer.com](https://www.makemytrailer.com)

Congratulations on your new enclosed cargo trailer! To ensure you get the most out of your investment, it's crucial to perform regular maintenance. This guide covers essential care and upkeep procedures to keep your trailer in top condition.

### 1. Pre-Use Checks (Before Each Trip)

- **Tires:** Check for proper inflation, signs of wear or damage, and ensure they are properly seated on the rims. Use a tire gauge to verify pressure against the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Lights and Electrical Connections:** Ensure all lights (brake lights, turn signals, and interior lights) are functioning. Check the wiring harness and connectors for signs of wear or corrosion.
- **Coupler and Hitch:** Inspect the coupler and hitch for damage or excessive wear. Make sure the coupler is securely fastened to the hitch ball and that the locking mechanism is engaged.
- **Safety Chains:** Confirm that safety chains are securely attached and free of damage or corrosion.
- **Brakes:** Test the brake function (if your trailer is equipped with brakes). Ensure there's no delay or unusual noise when applied.

### 2. Periodic Maintenance (Every Six Months)

- **Wheel Bearings:** Inspect and repack wheel bearings with high-quality grease. Consider professional servicing if you're not comfortable doing this yourself.
- **Axles and Suspension:** Inspect axles for straightness and check the suspension components for wear or damage. Look for any unusual wear patterns on tires that may indicate alignment issues.
- **Frame and Body:** Check the frame and body for signs of rust or damage. Clean off any rust and apply a rust inhibitor. Touch up paint as needed.
- **Roof and Seals:** Inspect the roof for leaks or damage. Check all seals around doors and windows, resealing any areas that show signs of wear or leakage.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure roof vents and side vents are operational and clear of debris to prevent moisture buildup inside the trailer.

### 3. Interior Maintenance

- **Flooring:** Sweep out the interior regularly. If your trailer has a wooden floor, inspect it for signs of rot or water damage and seal or replace as necessary.
- **Walls and Tie-downs:** Check the interior walls and tie-downs for damage. Ensure all mounting points are secure.
- **Door Latches and Locks:** Lubricate door hinges, latches, and locks to ensure they operate smoothly.

### 4. Exterior Care

- **Washing:** Wash your trailer regularly with mild soap and water to prevent buildup of dirt and grime, which can lead to corrosion. Pay special attention to the undercarriage.
- **Waxing:** Apply a quality wax at least once a year to protect the paint and finish.
- **Rust Protection:** Inspect for rust spots regularly, especially in areas where water might collect. Use rust preventive products as needed.

### 5. Winterizing (If Applicable)

- **Storage:** If storing your trailer for the winter, choose a dry, covered area if possible. Block up the trailer to remove weight from the tires.
- **Tire Care:** Inflate tires to the maximum recommended pressure to avoid flat spots. Consider using tire covers to protect from UV damage.
- **Battery Maintenance:** If your trailer has a battery, disconnect and store it in a dry, cool place on a trickle charger.

### 6. Safety Equipment

- **Fire Extinguisher:** Keep a fire extinguisher in the trailer and check it regularly to ensure it's in good working order.
- **First-Aid Kit:** Maintain a stocked first-aid kit in your trailer.
- **Emergency Supplies:** Include basic emergency supplies such as road flares, a spare tire, jack, and tools for changing a tire.

Remember, regular maintenance not only extends the life of your trailer but also ensures your safety and that of others on the road. If you encounter any issues beyond basic maintenance, consult with a professional trailer repair service. Safe travels!