

RV Maintenance Made Easy: Brakes and Axles



How to Upkeep Your RV Brakes and Axles

Keep your RV's brakes and axles ready for the road with these easy maintenance and troubleshooting tips.

Brake and Axle Maintenance and Troubleshooting Tips

Here are a few ways you can inspect and maintain your axles, brakes, and running gear to ensure you're ready to hit the road safely.

Preventative Maintenance

- Visually inspect your axles, frame, and running gear every 4 months to see if there are any signs of scrapes, dents, or excessive rust. If you travel or live in salty or sandy environments, inspect your rig at least every 6 weeks.
- Your shackles should also be inspected before every trip to ensure there's no excessive wear, rust, or damage. If your shackles fail, you could find yourself stranded. Have your wheel bearings repacked every year or every 12,000 miles. This task should be performed by a certified RV technician.
- Check your tire pressure before every trip and look for signs of uneven tread wear, as this might indicate over or under inflation.
- Protect your tires from harmful UV rays by covering them when your rig isn't in use.



Keep a tire gauge with you that's capable of reading the PSI ranges designated for your tires.

Troubleshooting

- Test your trailer brakes each trip and ensure they're performing properly by conducting a tug test using your brake controller in your tow vehicle. If the brakes in the trailer aren't engaging, there could be a problem with your brake controller or the 7-pin electrical connector between your tow vehicle and the rig. Seek out a certified RV professional if there's an issue.
- Check wheel temperatures occasionally by pointing an infrared temperature sensor at the lug area of each wheel when you make a stop. If one or more wheels are excessively hot, it's an indication of a bearing or brake problem that needs to be addressed.