

Boat Trailer Inspection Checklist

Inspect the things that only go wrong on a trailer that gets driven into the water — wet bearings, corrosion from the inside, and a winch strap nobody has unrolled in years.

An inspection for a trailer that gets driven into the water. Immersion, and salt water above all, does things to a trailer that no road trailer ever has to survive.

HEAT, WATER AND SALT

A hot hub dunked in cold water draws water in past the seal as it cools, and salt left inside a box section works from the inside out where nobody looks. Let the hubs cool before launching, and rinse the whole frame with fresh water afterwards — including the inside, through the drain holes.

Trailer make & model	ID / registration	Date
Boat & weight	Usual water	Checked by

BEARINGS, HUBS AND IMMERSION

☐ Bearing protectors seated, turning and holding grease	
☐ Hubs cool to the hand before the trailer goes in the water	
☐ Grease inspected — milky means water has got past a seal	
☐ Play checked at the top and bottom of each wheel	
☐ Seals, dust caps and hub nut retention sound	

CORROSION

☐ Whole frame rinsed with fresh water after every salt launch	
☐ Drain holes clear so box sections empty instead of holding brine	
☐ Galvanising or paint intact; no bubbling or flaking at the welds	
☐ Spring hangers, U-bolts, shackles and axle checked for section loss	
☐ Brakes, where fitted, flushed and freed off after immersion	

ROLLERS, BUNKS AND SUPPORTS

- ☐ Rollers turn freely and have no flat spots
- ☐ Bunk carpet sound, with no exposed staples or bolt heads
- ☐ Keel rollers aligned and carrying weight where the hull is strong
- ☐ Boat sitting square, hard against the bow stop

WINCH AND SECURING

- ☐ Winch strap or wire run out full length and inspected end to end
- ☐ Winch hook, safety catch, ratchet and brake pawl all working
- ☐ Separate bow safety chain fitted as well as the winch strap
- ☐ Transom or stern straps tight, and re-checked after a few miles
- ☐ Outboard supported, and mast, fuel and loose gear secured

LIGHTING BOARD AND ELECTRICS

- ☐ Lighting board removed or unplugged before the trailer enters the water
- ☐ Board mounted high, clear of the water, and secure
- ☐ All lamps, plug, socket and cable checked with someone watching

Signed

Print name

Date

Notes and anything specific to yours