

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Why does my boat loads unevenly, it seems to tilt to one side of the trailer.**

Voyager trailers are made symmetrically, both sides are identical so the boat should load level onto the trailer unless either, the trailer is on an angle when retrieving the boat or, if the boat cargo or equipment is loaded unevenly i.e. if the boat has more weight on one side than the other.

- If the boat ramp is not parallel to the water line this will contribute to the boat being loaded unevenly. The effect of this can be offset by skewing the trailer on the ramp until the chassis is parallel to the waterline.
- If the boat is loaded unevenly this will also contribute to the boat being retrieved unevenly. The effect of this can be offset by turning the outboard motor toward the lighter side. This is very effective on smaller craft but less effective on larger vessels with larger load discrepancies. For larger boats, you may have to review how the boat is loaded and possibly redistribute the load to balance the deck. Sometimes passengers stay on board when a boat is being retrieved at the ramp, it is important to understand the effect this may have on load imbalance and how best to compensate.
- Wind and current also can contribute to a boat being loaded incorrectly. There is not a lot we can do to combat the forces of nature but it will assist greatly if the trailer is angled either; into the wind or into the current.

### **Is there any better coating than galvanising for my boat trailer?**

Galvanising is the best form of protection for your boat trailer. Galvanising is cathodic protection just like an anode on your outboard motor so the galvanising will slowly deteriorate sacrificially to the steel it protects. You can expect anywhere between 5 and 15 years of protection for your trailer if used in salt water. The more that you look after your trailer the longer it will last. Chlorides are extremely corrosive to zinc and sea water is full of them. Re-galvanising can be performed prior to any structural damage to the chassis or components.

- If you flush the inside of the trailer and wash it immediately after each use it will last a lot longer than if you simply take it home and leave it to the elements. If you use an automotive wash and wax it will assist in dispelling the chlorides and there are other specialty products like salt-away that also assist in protecting the galvanising.

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### **Is there any better coating than galvanising for my boat trailer? cont**

- Painting or powder-coating over galvanising is called a duplex coating. Generally duplex coatings applied correctly extend the life of galvanised coatings 4 times but one drawback with boat trailers is that you cannot easily completely coat the inside of the trailer so the extended life is not easily achievable. There are anticorrosive products that you can spray on the inside but care must be taken to ensure that there is no following environmental harm from leaching of such products. Voyager can apply CorrosionX coatings to the inside of your chassis, this product is food grade and not detrimental to marine life. The cost of additional corrosion prevention can be more expensive than the long-term benefit especially if you are intending to keep your boat/trailer for less than 10 years. Voyager would recommend spending a bit of extra time washing the trailer with a suitable wash and wax detergent.

### **What are the New Zealand laws regarding brakes on light trailers?**

Within NZTA's guide to safe towing it states that brakes are not required where the gross laden weight of a trailer is 2,000 Kg or less.

Tow-Vehicles fitted with OEM or Certified tow bars will state a maximum towing weights; without trailer brakes and with trailer brakes. These maximum tow weights will be in accordance with the Tow-Vehicle's Manufacturer's maximum limits.

The current NZTA requirement for trailers fitted with brakes is that when towing, the tow vehicle and trailer travelling at 30 kilometres per hour must be able to stop within 7 metres.

- A 200 series Toyota VX Land cruiser can tow a braked COF trailer up to 4,000 Kg with upgrades or up to 3,500 Kg with a suitable braked WOF trailer but, Manufacturer's Specifications limit towing any trailer without brakes up to a maximum of 750 Kg.
- Insurance companies may elect not to pay out on claims for accidental damage to either Tow-Vehicle or Trailer/Boat where an unbraked trailer weight is in excess of the manufacturers specifications, regardless of whether it can stop within 7 metres at 30 kph.

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### **If I fit brakes, what do I need?**

Light trailers are defined as trailers not exceeding 3,500 Kg GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) or in other words the combined weight of the; Trailer, Boat, Motor, Fuel and onboard Equipment being towed.

- Hydraulic Override brakes or Mechanical (cable) brakes are legal up to 2,500 Kg GVM. These are brakes that are mechanically actuated by tow coupling forward movement when the tow-vehicle brakes. The maximum of 2,500 Kg GVM applies whether one axle or two axles are braked.
- For trailers that exceed 2,500 Kg and have a GVM of 3,500 Kg or less must have Electric/Hydraulic brakes (both axles) that have in cab brake controllers/adjusters.
- If the GVM of a trailer exceeds 3,500 Kg the trailer must be certified to COF standards and so must the tow vehicle, together as a combination.

### **Why choose a Voyager trailer?**

Voyager boat trailers have a low centre of gravity for ease of launch and retrieve and for safe towing. Our trailers are fabricated and assembled to match the specific hull they carry and are assured of coping with the GVM specified (Gross Vehicle Mass is the combined weight of the boat, trailer, motor and on-board equipment carried).

- Voyager don't have "one size fits all" trailers as it is our experience that such trailers sit the boat much higher on the trailer and are not overly user friendly when launching at shallow ramps or on beaches.
- Our welders are certified and we guarantee the structural integrity of our chassis for 5 years. We provide manufacturer guarantees on all parts.
- Our trailers make it easier to on sell a boat when it's time to upgrade, talk to owners of Voyager Trailers and ask them why they have one.