

[By Kathryn Whittaker](#)

Trailer traveling became popular in the 1920s, when Americans learned and enjoyed the freedom and flexibility of traveling by trailer. Today, more and more people explore the joys of a mobile vacation home, looking for perfect trailers for living and utility trailers for their belongings.

Today trailers for traveling come in a great number of sizes and personalities to fit every budget and wish list of activities. Keys to enjoying your vacation on wheels are deciding the style of traveling you prefer, recognizing the common trailer issues and knowing how to fix those little bugs.

The frame of the trailer, no matter if it is an RV or a utility trailer, needs proper and regular maintenance. Since the trailer frame carries a lot of weight and is constantly wet and dirty while being hit by road debris, it develops a great deal of rust. To prevent it from damaging the trailer, the frame needs to be treated with a rust preventive spray and painted regularly with at least a double coat of paint and primer.

When you paint under the trailer, you have a chance to spot some other problems and damaged parts such as damaged floors or parts. You will have to fix these before hitting the road.

Using propane needs a lot of care, too. Many fires in trailers start with inadequate handling of propane tanks. To detect a leak of gas from its container, gas detectors are very handy. When you notice the gas smell in the trailer, escape immediately without using the phone or light switches that can ignite the gas. Portable gas containers must be inspected on a regular basis, and kept from rusting with a coat of paint. The gas connections must be also inspected for leaks.

To keep your trailer free from unwanted odors, make sure you use enough water to flush, and that a toilet seal is operational. The unpleasant odors may also enter from the roof which is not tight, so if you suffer from odors, make sure you check the roof and the exhaust fan, too.

Saving fuel today is one of the most important issues for any traveler. Don't press too hard on the accelerator and try to drive as smoothly as you can. When you need to slow down, let the trailer coast naturally instead of using a brake to slow down. A smooth acceleration may save as much as 10 per cent of fuel down the road. To save fuel, check the plugs which can eat as much as 30 per cent of fuel efficiency, and change the oil and water frequently. New tires will also save you fuel. And finally, don't overload your trailer and clear out the storage areas at least once a year.

Last, but not least, check your trailer roof for decay and rust. A leaking roof can lead to eventual damage to the trailer. Most trailer roofs are made of fiberglass or aluminum, and they can be easily cleaned, painted and sealed with silicone, if needed. Keeping your roof clean and dry is essential for overall trailer longevity.

Kathryn Whittaker writes articles on a number of different topics. For more information on Trailers please visit [Trailers Guide](#) and for additional [Trailer articles](#) please visit the following article page Trailer Articles.

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