

Jockey Wheel Maintenance



The jockey wheel is one of the simplest mechanisms fitted on any caravan, but it's also one of the most highly valued - break one and you'll soon discover why

That innocent-looking wheel is as important now as it's ever been. Fitted at the front of every van or trailer, it provides the much needed steering for manoeuvring the unhitched tourer into position.

Damage or break this sort of jockey and it's a dead cert you'll start having the holiday from hell.

Because the jockey wheel is so anonymous, many enthusiasts ignore it, even during routine maintenance. And yet all the jockey wheel demands is a little care and attention once a year. In return it will last perhaps the life of the van, or at least your ownership period.

Start at the actual wheel. Most types still use a solid tyre, which although it doesn't cover that much ground still wears out. More commonly it becomes damaged, usually because the wheel 'slipped' on to the ground during towing.

You can upgrade to a pneumatic tyre, which can give a lighter, smoother tiller action, and this is especially recommended for those who use a powered caravan mover.

The actual jockey wheel unit functions on a simple sliding spindle design.

Once a year it pays to strip it down, thoroughly clean and re-lubricate the thread with fresh grease.

Check also that the unit slides and lowers freely and that the assembly hasn't suffered physical damage, become corroded (not unknown) or is simply broken due to misuse. Any good caravan manual will tell you the details on how to remove the wheel from individual trailer designs.



Replacement of a Jockey wheel is not too expensive, for the best prices and range visit the [Towsure](http://www.towsure.co.uk) website. An excellent store for all your caravan and trailer needs.

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