**Trailer Maintenance**   
  
Your trailer isn't just a tool, it's the lifeblood of your business. Any downtime can hit you hard in the wallet. Regular maintenance and inspections aren't just the smart thing to do, they're an investment. They keep your trailer on the road, working hard, and making you money. By showing your trailer a bit of care, you're actually keeping your business rolling along and saving yourself time and money in the long run.  
  
At Workmate Trailers, we're pretty proud of our high standards. We make sure all our trailers are up to standard before they leave the workshop. Including proper tension on the wheel nuts – that's 100ft pounds or 135Nm – and properly tensioned bearings. But here's the thing, even with our meticulous prep, it's crucial to do a follow-up check after your first 100km.

When you first start towing, the trailer's parts need a bit of time to bed in. The heat from those first kilometres, combined with the weight of your load, can cause the components to expand, contract, and settle into their groove. This could mean changes in the wheel nut tension and the bearings.

So, that's why you should give your new trailer a once-over after the first 100km, and keep up with regular maintenance for the whole life of the trailer.

**Your Post-Purchase Check-Up:**

1. **After the first 100 km:**
   * Give the wheel nuts a look and make sure they're still at 100ft pounds (or 135Nm). If they've loosened up a bit, give them a tighten. Be careful not to overdo it, though. Too tight can be just as bad as too loose.
   * Be sure to check those bearings for any signs of wear or heat damage. If they're a bit loose or too tight, adjust them so they're just right. The wheel should spin freely without any play or wobble. Not too tight, not too loose
   * Make sure all the lights are doing their thing, and all the electrical connections are in order.
   * Don't forget to check the tyre pressure and look out for any weird wear patterns.

**Regular Maintenance (every six months or every 10,000 km, whichever comes first):**

1. **Wheel and Tyre Maintenance:**
   * Check and tighten wheel nuts if necessary.
   * Inspect tires for wear and damage. Replace if necessary.
   * Check tire pressure and adjust if necessary.
2. **Bearing Maintenance:**
   * Inspect and repack parallel wheel bearings with high-temperature wheel bearing grease.
3. **Electrical System:**
   * Check all lights and electrical connections. Repair or replace as needed.
4. **Brake System (Mechanical Disk Brakes or Electric Drum Brakes):**
   * Inspect brake pads for wear. Replace if necessary.
   * If your trailer has electric drum brakes, ensure the electrical connections are secure and clean.
   * Check for wear and tear on the mechanical components of the brakes. Repair or replace as needed.
   * Check the Break-Away battery (if applicable) and ensure it's fully charged and terminals are clean.

**Annual Maintenance (every 12 months or every 30,000 km, whichever comes first):**

1. **Complete all regular maintenance tasks.**
2. **Additional Tasks:**
   * Replace parallel wheel bearings.
   * Inspect suspension components for wear and damage. Repair or replace as needed.
   * Check and tighten all bolts and fasteners on the trailer.
   * Inspect the frame for any signs of damage or rust. Treat any rust spots and repair any damage.

If you're not sure about any of these steps or if you're running into issues. Give us a call at Workmate Trailers – we're here to lend a hand.

If you're not feeling confident about taking on the maintenance of your trailer yourself, Contact your local mechanic or trailer repair shop. They're the pros at this and they'll be able to sort out the service or inspection for you.   
  
Even with this maintenance schedule in place, it's a good idea to keep an eye on your trailer while you're out and about. Keep an eye out for anything that seems odd or out of place - a strange noise, something looking a bit worn or loose, anything that doesn't seem right. Remember, when it comes to your trailer, It's your responsibility to keep it in good nick and maintained. If something doesn't feel right, don't risk it - check it out, and if needed, get it sorted by a professional.