



inTech Care Guide

Cleaning & Maintaining the Appearance of
Your inTech Trailer

This guide will give you basic information on how to care for and maintain your new inTech Trailer. Taking care of your new trailer will not only keep it aesthetically pleasing over the course of your ownership, but will also increase the value of your trailer should you ever choose to sell it.

In some instances, we will provide you with specific products that will perform very well for the intended use. Please know that there are many different products that are suitable for taking care of your trailer. inTech is not promoting any of the products mentioned in this guide, we are simply attempting to give you as much information as possible. inTech assumes no responsibility for damage that may occur to your trailer in using any of the products mentioned in this guide.



Washing Your Trailer

Let's begin with washing your trailer. The first thing to understand is that the standard paint on your trailer is very different than that of an automobile. Cars and trucks have a clear coat protective final coat that increases the durability of the painted surface. The standard paint on your trailer is a baked on enamel with NO protective clearcoat. This means the paint is more susceptible to scratches and to the elements in general.

Black trailers are the most prone to visible scratches and extra precautions should be taken when caring for these trailers. It is never a good idea to use a bristle brush when washing your trailer, particularly stiff bristle brushes. These brushes, even when using soft bristle brushes tend to easily scratch the paints surface. We recommend using a soft sponge or microfiber wash cloth. The key is to make certain the sponge is kept clean throughout the washing process. If the sponge is carrying dirt while you are washing, it will scratch the paints surface.



Washing Your Trailer

You can use any quality car wash soap or even liquid dish soap. Please note that car wash soaps are typically milder and will not remove waxes from the trailers surface. Liquid dish soaps, like Dawn are great for cutting grease and dirt from the trailers surface, but are more likely to remove the wax you've put on your trailer. We recommend using liquid dish soaps prior to waxing your trailer to give it a good thorough cleaning.

Maintaining clean water in your bucket is very important. If your water becomes dirty, change the water, otherwise you're simply spreading suspended dirt across your trailers painted surface. An easy way to help keep the dirt at the bottom of the bucket and not on your sponge, is to use a bucket with a grid at the bottom of the bucket that allows the dirt to settle to the bottom and not end up on your sponge.

Another thing you can do to help eliminate the transfer of dirt to your paints surface is to have two buckets, one with your soap and the other filled with clean water to rinse your brush off before dipping it back into the soap and then onto your trailer. This extra step will really help maintain your trailers beautiful appearance and help resist scratching.



Washing Your Trailer

Another great product for cleaning your trailer is Wash Wax ALL, this product can be used with or without water and does a tremendous job. It's great for those days when you simply don't have access to water. Wash Wax ALL removes dirt without scratching the surface of the paint. You simply spray the product on and wipe it dry. It leaves an anti-static, non-stick UV protective coating on the painted surface. You can learn more about this product at www.washwax.com.



Removing Black Streaks

It's inevitable, you're trailer will sooner or later develop black streaks down the side. If you have a black trailer, the streaks will be there, they just won't be as visible, but it's just as important to remove them from a black trailer because there are contaminants trapped in the porous paint.

There are plenty of quality black streak removers available at auto parts stores, RV parts departments and even local retailers. These specialty products tend to be a bit expensive. We've found a very affordable product that's easy to use and works great...LA's Totally Awesome.

This product is available at Dollar Tree, Dollar General and many other retailers. At \$1 per quart, this is one of the best bargains for keeping unsightly black streaks from destroying the beauty of your inTech Trailer.

Simply spray the product on the black streaks, lightly agitate the area with your sponge for a minute and rinse away. Heavily effected areas may require additional applications to remove all of the streaks, but in general, one application is all it takes to remove the black streaks. Learn more by visiting www.lastotallyawesome.com.



Cleaning Water Spots

Washing a big trailer is not always an easy task, it's especially hard to wash it and dry it without getting water spots. This is particularly the case if you have hard water. Water spots are created by mineral deposits being left behind as the water dries. Water spots can be a difficult to remove, but if you have the right product it can be done.

Water spots are going to be the most noticeable on darker trailers and on the stainless steel accents that your trailer may have. You can use Cleaner Waxes or non-abrasive metal polishes to remove water spots.

Take extra care to use a clean microfiber towel when working with any of these products. The soft material is easier on the painted surface than a standard towel which can easily leave behind small scratches in the paints surface, particularly noticeable on black trailers.



Waxing Your Trailer

It's important to wax your trailer at least once a year. Waxing your trailer regularly will help to protect the trailers paint surface and help prevent black streaks. Always make certain that your trailer is washed and void of any water spots, black streaks or other imperfections before waxing it. Waxing on top of black streaks will seal them into the surface and make removing them difficult.

There are any number of waxes available that will work great on your trailer. We recommend using a wax that is durable and will last a long time. Waxes containing natural carnuba create a great finish but don't tend to last very long. We have found that Nu Finish is a great wax that lasts a long time and doesn't create a lot of wax build-up or residue around trim...any excess wax usually washes away fairly easily. Nu Finish is touted as being a "once a year car polish", so it is formulated to last a long time.



Waxing Your Trailer

Note that it doesn't take a lot of wax to get great results. Putting wax on heavier doesn't wax your trailer any better than putting on a thin coating. We recommend applying the wax with a damp sponge or microfiber towel. Allow the wax to dry and then lightly buff the wax off with a clean microfiber towel.

Turn the microfiber towel continually so you're working with a fresh area and change out the microfiber towel frequently for best results. If you drop your microfiber towel on the ground, discard it as they easily pick up debris that will damage the paint on your trailer. You can use a random orbital buffer to speed up the process, but we do not recommend using a rotary buffer as they can create swirl marks in the paint's surface.

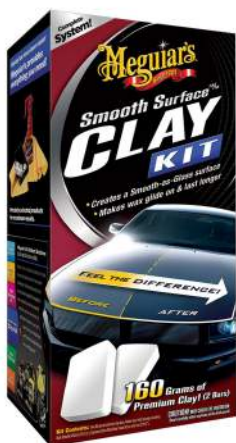


Cleaning Paint Surface

Typically, after owning your trailer for several years you might notice that the surface of your trailers paint is no longer smooth. You can feel small imperfections raised above the paints surface. Usually this is created by road debris, tree sap, pollution and any other number of contaminants that end up on your trailer.

An easy to way remove this rough coating is by using a clay bar. You can purchase these in the automotive cleaning section of just about any retail store. They are simple to use, but can be somewhat time consuming. They come with a liquid lubricant that makes the paints surface slick and allows the clay bar to be easily rubbed across the trailer. You simply wet out an area of the trailer and work the clay bar back and forth on the trailers surface. The clay bar will leave the surface smooth and clean.

Please note that using a clay bar will remove the wax on the trailer. Make sure the trailer is washed and clean before using the clay bar. Use your hands to mix the clay around from time to time so that you're working with a clean clay surface. When you're done claying baring the trailer you will need to re-wash the trailer to remove any streaks. Always test a clay bar in an inconspicuous area prior to working on the entire trailer to determine that there are no issues. Cleaner waxes are another way to remove minor imperfections in the paint but are often more time consuming.



Detail Sprays

One of the most useful products you can keep on hand at all times is a bottle of detail spray or detail spray wax and a lot of microfiber towels. Detail sprays and spray waxes can provide a quick, easy shine to both the inside and outside of the trailer.

The market is flooded with more detail sprays than you can count. Like most things, it's all about personal preference when it comes to picking out your favorite spray. We've used a bunch of different detail sprays out there, but one that really stands out for us is Surf City Garage. We like to use both their Speed Demon Quick Detailer and their Barrier Reef Spray Wax.

Both of these products are extremely easy to use and what we really like about them is not only the shine they leave but the streak free results we get every time. Simply spray on either of these products and wipe dry with a microfiber towel. The spray wax is a quick easy way to put a little protection into your effort while the quick detailer is the fastest way to create a high shine with the least effort.




Because There is a Difference

Reaching Up High

It goes without saying that your trailer is probably taller than you can reach and getting the ladder out every time you want to give the trailer a quick shine is a bit more of a hassle than it's worth. Well, there is an easy solution for this problem.

We never go to a show unless we have our Swiffer with us. These devices are great for quickly loading a microfiber towel instead of the Swiffer cloth and getting at those high up, hard to reach areas. It makes light work of what otherwise can be a time consuming job.

One word of precaution, don't get in too big of a hurry, if you're not careful the microfiber towel gets too dry it can catch and flip the Swiffer over and potentially scratch or damage your paints surface. Take your time and be cautious as you work the Swiffer down the side of the trailer.



Tar and Bugs

The front of your trailer and some areas of the sides will be susceptible to getting bugs and road tar on them. Our best advice is to keep it maintained regularly so it's not overwhelming to clean it once it has built up over time.

There are a multitude of products specifically designed for cleaning off bugs and tar. We don't have any particular one that we recommend over another. We will advise you NOT to use anything overly aggressive. Sponges with built in "scrubbies" will certainly scratch your trailer. If you must use one of these products, as noted earlier, test it in an inconspicuous area first to prevent damaging a large section of your trailer. Remember, when a trailer is wet, you won't see the scratches you're creating until it has dried...and then it's too late.

Also refrain from using any kind of rubbing compound on your trailer. The paint is too thin to use a rubbing compound and with little effort you will wear through the paint and get into the base aluminum.

So, while removing bugs and tar isn't a fun job, take your time and do it right. A good coat of wax makes removing these problems easier when the time comes, so keep that in mind.



Wheels & Tires

As you've discovered, there are plenty of different products to choose from when cleaning your trailer. The same is true for your wheels and tires. In most cases both your wheels and tires can be cleaned with standard car wash soap or liquid dish soap. When you occasionally find harder to clean dirt, you can opt for a wheel cleaner designed specifically for the job. Just make certain that the product you are using is safe on wheels with a clearcoat protective coating. Cleaners made for raw aluminum wheels are too harsh for your wheels that have the clearcoat. These products will damage the surface and cause it to wear out prematurely.

These special sprays are simple to use, just spray them on the wheel, let them sit for a minute and then agitate the solution with a brush or sponge, then rinse the wheel clean. It's a good idea to put a coat of wax on your wheels at least once a year also as this will help keep the wheels looking great and add some protection at the same time.

The tires can be dressed with a spray on tire foam or gel that is applied with a sponge, whichever is your preference.



Cleaning the Raw Aluminum

Your trailer has some areas of raw extruded aluminum that are exposed and visible, including the A-frame, upper and lower trim rails and your extruded aluminum fenders. We give the A-frame and fenders a satin finish from the factory for a longer lasting, beautiful appearance. But, over time aluminum will oxidize and the beauty will deteriorate. This happens at a very slow rate and most of the time you don't notice it.

To regain the original beauty of your aluminum extrusions we recommend using a brown Scotch Brite pad to lightly sand and clean the surface. Whenever you do this, you need to be particularly careful around your painted surfaces of your trailer or you will scratch them.

Whenever possible hold a mask up to protect the areas that are close to the area you are cleaning. Several layers of masking tape or a thin panel can be held temporarily in place to protect the area. To make the job go easier you can take a small vibrating sander and use the Scotch Brite pad underneath it. The vibration from the sander will quickly clean up the aluminum and give it a great look.



Stainless Steel Care

If your trailer is equipped with stainless steel trim it is important to understand how to maintain the shine. One VERY important thing to remember is that because the stainless steel has a #8 mirror finish, it is VERY unlikely that you can repair scratches or scuffs by polishing them out. If you attempt to polish these areas you will likely cloud up a larger area than was previously damaged leaving the stainless steel in worse condition than you started.

If you are not happy with the damage that you may have on your stainless steel you should leave it to a professional to repair, or at a minimum, test your repair method in an inconspicuous area before tackling an area that is highly visible.

Keep in mind, inTech is also capable of providing replacement parts or providing complete service on your trailer at our Nappanee, Indiana location. We can return your trailer to like-new condition if requested. You can contact our Service Department at 574-773-9536 for more information.

As far as care and maintenance of your stainless steel, it is best to treat it just like your painted surfaces and keep a regular coat of wax on the surface. Using detail sprays and spray waxes is another fast way to keep the stainless steel looking great with little effort. Water spots should be treated as discussed earlier in the guide with a cleaner wax or non-abrasive metal polish.



Caring for Your Roof

The roof of your trailer is an important area to maintain that is frequently overlooked. Washing the roof regularly will slow down the formation of black streaks on your trailer by eliminating some of the contaminants that are washed over by rain and then deposited on your trailers painted surfaces.

Any car wash soap or liquid dish soap will clean the roof well enough. Simply wet the roof and scrub with a brush and rinse clean. **ALWAYS** use extra care when on the roof of your trailer or when using a ladder to access the roof of your trailer. When the aluminum roof is wet it can become extremely slippery which can cause serious injury or death.

inTech Trailers come standard with a walk-on service roof, so you should be able to access the roof of your trailer without causing any damage. In some instances customers have deleted the walk-on service roof from their trailer, this renders the trailers roof unsafe to walk on and is not capable of supporting your weight without causing significant damage to the trailers roof and structure. If you have any question as to whether or not your trailer is equipped with a walk-on roof, please contact your authorized inTech dealer. If you purchased your trailer pre-owned or do not know what dealer your trailer was sold through, please contact inTech Trailers directly at 574-773-9536. Have your trailers serial number available and we can let you know if your trailer is equipped with a walk-on roof.



Important Things to Remember

- Do NOT use a bristle brush on the painted panels of the trailer
- Do NOT use rubbing compounds on the painted panels of the trailer
- Always use extreme caution when accessing the roof
- Always use extreme caution when using a ladder with your trailer
- Always make certain your buffing materials are clean and free of debris
- Whenever uncertain, test cleaning methods in a small inconspicuous area
- Do NOT use a rotary buffer on the painted panels of the trailer

As an added note, it is always a good idea to remove jewelry, belt buckles, watches or any other accessory that might scratch or damage the painted surfaces or stainless steel when you are cleaning or working on the trailer.

We hope this care guide will help you maintain the beauty of your new inTech over the life of the trailer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at 574-773-9536. We appreciate your business and thank you for entrusting us to build your trailer. Thank you!

