

SHIFTR OWNER GUIDE | CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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What to check, when, and which jobs belong with your dealer. Following it keeps your SHIFTR safe and your Limited Warranty valid. Part of your SHIFTR Owner's Manual.

WARNING

Wheel separation can occur if wheel nuts are not checked. Never work under the trailer while it is loaded. Only go under it when it is securely supported on jack stands, with the SmartControl master switch off and all four safety latches engaged.

BEFORE EVERY TOW | WALK-AROUND CHECK

- **Inspect the perimeter:** walk around and check the wheels, axle area and tongue.
- **Look underneath:** crouch down, without going under the trailer, and check for anything loose, missing, hanging down or out of place.
- **Check hardware:** make sure the paint marks on the bolts and pins you can see have not moved.
- **Take action:** if something looks wrong, do not tow. Contact your dealer.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

When	What to do
Before every tow	Walk-around check (box above). Torque the wheel nuts to 95 ft-lb. Check tire pressure and condition, lights, breakaway switch, safety latches, and battery above 12.4V. Look for hydraulic fluid leaks.
New trailer, or after a wheel is refitted	Re-torque the wheel nuts to 95 ft-lb after the first 10, 25 and 50 miles. At the same points, feel each hub for heat and check the wheel bearings for play.
Every 6 months, and after a long road trip	Check the paint marks on the bolts and pins for movement (section 6). Check the hydraulic hoses for chafing or wear.
Wheel bearings and brakes	Adjust bearings every 2,000 miles. Grease bearings and check the brake linings for wear every 12 months or 10,000 miles (16,000 km), whichever comes first (dealer).
Every 12 months	Grease the pivot pins and safety latches. Check the hydraulic fluid level.
Every 2 years	Hydraulic fluid change (dealer).

1. WHEELS AND TIRES

- Torque the wheel nuts to **95 ft-lb** with a calibrated torque wrench, in three stages, following the star pattern in your Owner's Manual. New wheel nuts settle, so re-torque after the first 10, 25 and 50 miles, then before every tow and whenever a wheel is removed.
- Set tire pressure cold, using the pressure on the silver Tire and Loading Information plate on the tongue. The "max PSI" on the sidewall is a limit, not the setting.
- Check tires for cuts, bulges, cracking and uneven wear. Tires age as well as wear, so have older tires checked for sidewall cracking.

2. BRAKES AND WHEEL BEARINGS

- **Bed the brakes in when new.** Apply them 20 to 30 times, slowing by about 20 mph, for example from 30 mph down to 10 mph, and let them cool between applications.
- The brakes are self-adjusting and do not need adjusting. Have the brake linings checked for wear each time the bearings are greased: every 12 months or 10,000 miles (16,000 km), whichever comes first.

- Check the hubs for heat and play at 10, 25, 50 miles and before every tow. If a hub is too hot to keep your hand on, stop and have it checked.
- Bearings are adjusted every 2,000 miles and lubricated every 12 months or 10,000 miles (16,000 km), whichever comes first, using a lithium complex grease, NLGI No. 2, with EP additives. Never mix grease types (lithium, calcium, sodium or barium complex). If the grease type is changed, all the old grease must be removed first. Have your dealer or a qualified trailer mechanic do this work. Bearing failure from missed greasing or adjustment is not covered by the Limited Warranty.
- The breakaway system is for emergencies only. Never use it as a park brake. It will flatten the battery and the brakes will release.

3. PIVOT PINS AND SAFETY LATCHES

Grease the pivot pins and the four safety latches **once a year**. Wipe off old grease and dirt first. If one is stiff, squeaks or has play, grease it and have it checked.

4. HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

- Look for fluid leaks every time you use the trailer: wet patches or drips at the pump, hoses and lift cylinders. If you see a leak, contact your dealer.
- Every 6 months, and after a long road trip, check the hydraulic hoses for chafing, cuts or wear from road debris. Have your dealer replace a worn hose before the trailer is used.
- Check the fluid level on the dipstick at least once a year, with the deck fully lowered. Top up only with **Valvoline MaxLife Multi-Vehicle ATF Full Synthetic**.
- With the trailer empty, the deck takes about **20 seconds** to lower. If it's much faster or slower, contact Futura. Never adjust the pump valves.
- Have your dealer change the fluid every 2 years. Full steps: [SHIFTR Hydraulic Fluid | Check and Top Up](#).

5. BATTERY AND SOLAR

- Before operating, the SmartControl voltmeter should read above 12.4V. If it's lower, charge the battery first. Turn the master switch off when the trailer isn't in use.
- The solar panel keeps the battery topped up in daylight. When the trailer is stored, you can leave the supplied charger plugged in. It regulates itself and only charges when the battery needs it.

6. CHASSIS, BOLTS, DECK AND TIE-DOWNS

- **Paint marks on bolts and pins:** the chassis-to-axle bolts, tongue connection bolts, axle pivot pins and stub axle bolts all carry a paint mark across the bolt head and the part. Every 6 months, and after a long road trip, check each mark still lines up. A mark that has moved means a bolt or pin has loosened: don't tow the trailer, contact your dealer.
- Wash the trailer regularly to remove road salt, sea spray or de-icing chemicals. Rinse with fresh water after towing on salted or grimy roads. Look over the chassis and tongue for cracks or damage.
- Touch up stone chips and scratches in the galvanizing or powder coat promptly, before corrosion starts.
- Check the deck slots for bent, lifted or cracked edges. Tension straps only to firm resistance, never with a bar or pipe on the ratchet. Before every load, replace any strap that is cut, frayed or worn, or has a damaged hook or ratchet. Full steps: [SHIFTR Tie-Down and Strap Tension](#).

7. STORAGE

Store the trailer with the deck fully lowered, the master switch off and the wheels chocked. You can leave a vehicle parked on it while it's lowered. Lock the toolbox. Don't store it in standing water. Use only a breathable cover. A non-breathable cover traps moisture against the powder-coated deck and can cause blistering and corrosion.

KEEP A RECORD

Up-to-date maintenance is a condition of the SHIFTR Limited Warranty. Keep a dated log of every wheel nut torque check and every service, with receipts. Wheel separation claims need this log. Questions? Talk to your SHIFTR dealer, or email trailers@futuratrailers.com.