

Fontaine ARMOR™ cold weather maintenance

At low temperatures, ice and sludge can build up while lubricants can become thick and binding. Special precautions should be taken during cold weather to ensure that fifth wheel locking mechanisms operate freely.

When the temperature drops below freezing, Fontaine® Parts Connection suggests that the grease be removed from the fifth wheel (steam cleaning is preferred) and new grease applied. It is especially important that the throat of the fifth wheel be cleaned and cleared of any and all debris (ice, snow, sludge, rock, etc.) that could prevent correct coupling. In addition, hardened grease should be removed from the grease grooves and chamfered surfaces of the wear plates.

Once the fifth wheel has been properly degreased, lubrication can be applied to critical areas of the fifth wheel. As Figure 1 indicates, grease should be applied to the locking jaw and the stationary jaw as well as to the wear plates. Distribute the grease along the full length of the components.

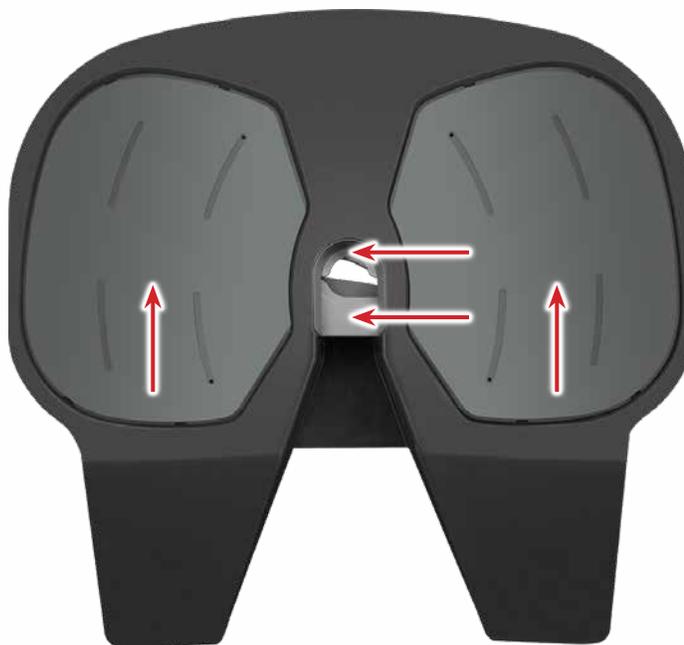


Figure 1: Top view, lubrication points of Fontaine Armor

From the underside of the wheel, grease should be applied to the areas indicated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Underside view, Lubrication points of Fontaine Armor

Fontaine suggests the use of a Moly-based lubricant such as Mobilgrease XHP320, Moly 50 or equivalent when applying lubricant. Regions that experience extreme and/or prolonged freezing temperatures should consider using a less viscous substance such as: 90-weight oil, diesel fuel, and kerosene, motor oil, etc., unless prohibited by government regulations. Doing so will help ensure proper movement and lubrication of the locking mechanism. Fontaine suggests contacting your specific lubricant manufacturer for guidelines on mixing compatibility of any lubricant. If an issue with cold weather maintenance has not been fully addressed by this technical bulletin, please contact Fontaine Parts Connection at 800-874-9780.