

# HOW TO CHOOSE A TRAILER

Is a trailer worth the investment? For many owner-operators, the answer is yes. On average, it can take less than four years to earn back that investment, even when buying new equipment. Here are some tips on how to get the best bang for your buck when trailer shopping.

## UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'LL HAUL

Sounds simple but if you're just starting out, make sure you know exactly what you'll be hauling. For example, heavy-footprint products (such as paper rolls) require higher trailer floor ratings. Automotive racks require interior designs that protect the trailer from damage during loading and unloading. Food transport requires a temperature-controlled trailer. These are only a few examples, but they highlight why tip number one is to understand fully what you'll be hauling.



## MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE FROM THE START

We all want to save money, right? The higher upfront price of a quality item is hard to get past when a cheaper option is available, but if you look at the big picture, spending more at first can save you way more money across the life of your trailer.

Premium quality components such as long-life brake linings, wide brakes, long-life wheel ends, and seals can mean less money and time spent on maintenance and repair. Some trailer manufacturers also offer galvanizing to protect door frames, hinges, and the subframe. Additionally, you can reduce your cost per mile and maintenance costs by using special coatings that protect trailer parts.

