

ISO/TS16949 REGISTERED
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Cold Weather Maintenance



Fontaine® Fifth Wheel suggests that the throat of the fifth wheel be cleaned and cleared of any and all debris (ice, snow, etc.) that could prevent correct coupling. Special precautions should be taken during cold weather to ensure that the fifth wheel locking mechanisms operate freely. At low temperatures, ice and sludge can build up while lubricants can become thick and binding.

When the temperature drops below freezing, Fontaine recommends a thorough cleaning of the locking mechanism using a suitable cleaner or degreaser to make sure that all moving parts operate freely. Refer to Figures 1 and 2 below. Lubricate the fifth wheel prior to opening and closing. Grease the exposed surfaces of the jaw and wedge. Separate the jaw and wedge with a large screwdriver and distribute the grease along the full length of the jaw and wedge mating surfaces. Open and close the fifth wheel several times to further distribute the grease.



Clean, oil, and grease all moving parts (arrows)

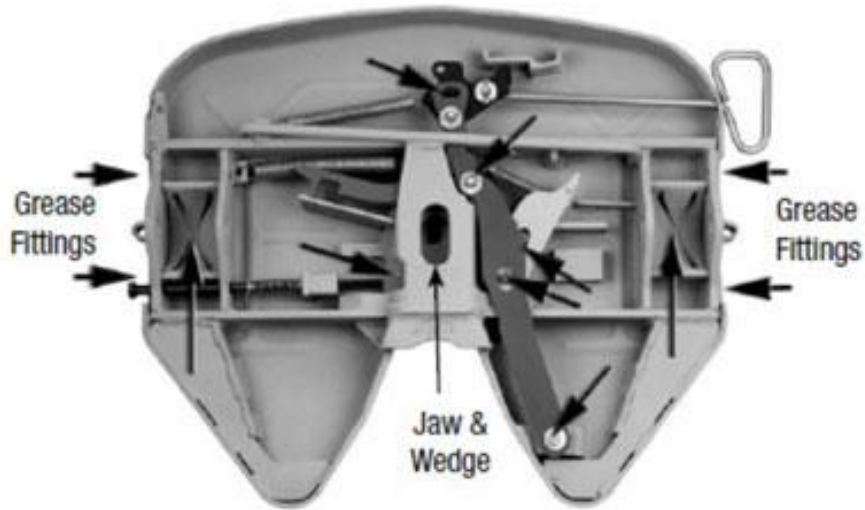
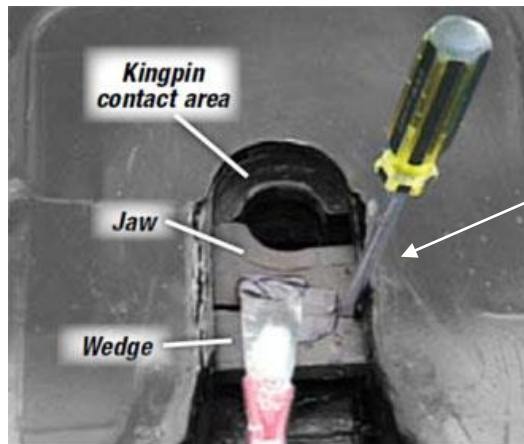


Figure 1: Image of the locking mechanism of a fifth wheel



Separate the jaw and wedge with the screwdriver here – grease the full length

Figure 2: Close up image of the jaw and wedge of a fifth wheel

Fontaine also suggests the use of Nanomech Ultra Red Trucking Grease, Mobil XHP 320 Mine or equivalent lubricant. Regions that experience extreme and/or prolonged freezing temperatures should consider using a less viscous substance such as: Mobil SHC-007, 90 weight gear 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 maker for guidelines on mixing compatibility of any lubricant.

The "90-Day/30,000 Mile Preventative Maintenance Procedure," and other maintenance procedures described in "Section IV – Inspection and Maintenance Procedures" of the Fontaine Fifth Wheel Instructions Handbook (LT-001) will also help prevent many cold weather issues.

If an issue with cold weather maintenance has not been fully addressed by this technical bulletin, please contact Fontaine Fifth Wheel at 800.874.9780.