
Questions and answers: Product Safety Recall: Trailpro Light Trailers sold by Bunnings

NZ Transport Agency
November 2018

What is the Trailpro trailers product safety recall?

The NZ Transport Agency was recently made aware of a safety risk with the Trailpro brand of light trailers, which were sold through Bunnings between 1 January 2006 and 12 October 2018.

The safety risk is related to the trailer's drawbar (see diagram below) which may break at the front where it bolts to the trailer's chassis. Due to the safety risk if the drawbar were to break, Bunnings issued a product safety recall on 22 November 2018.

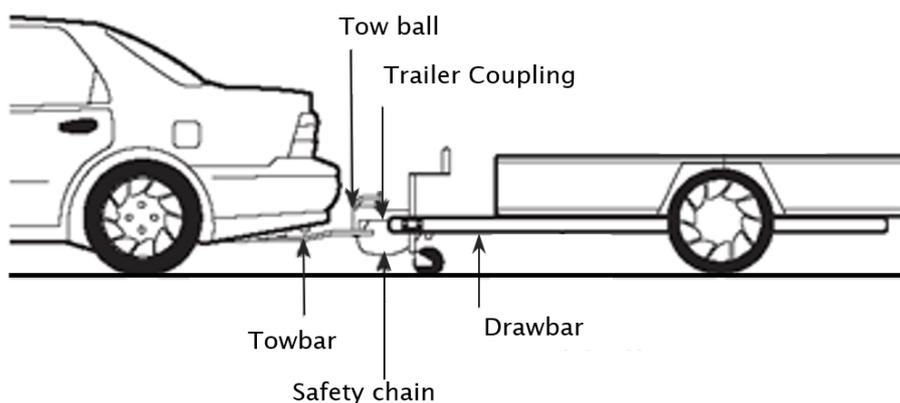


Diagram showing the parts of a trailer

Which models of Trailpro trailers are affected?

Trailpro 8x4 Tradesman - Model number TP5

Trailpro 8x5 Tandem - Model number TP8

NOTE - Other Trailpro models are not part of the product safety recall.

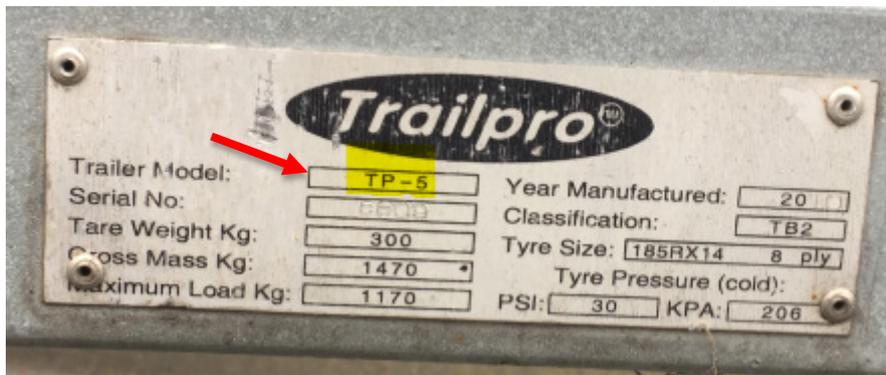
How do I identify the make and model of my trailer?

The affected Trailpro models were only sold by Bunnings. You should check your trailer's identification plate, which will show both the make and model - this is located on the outside of the trailer's drawbar near the tow coupling. See an example in the photos below.

- The TP5 has a single axle and a tray size of 8'x4' (2.4m x 1.2m).
- The TP8 is a tandem axle model with a tray size of 8'x5' (2.4m x 1.5m).



Location of trailer identification plate



Trailer model number is shown on the identification plate

If the identification plate is missing, damaged or obscured you can also identify the Trailpro models TP5 and TP8 as their drawbars are bolted rather than welded to the trailer. See an example of this in the photo below.



Trailpro TP5 and TP8 models have drawbars bolted to the trailer

Is it safe to use my trailer?

You should stop using the trailer to carry any load. You may continue to use the trailer unloaded to take it for repair or replacement.

I've had no issues with my trailer - can I just check my drawbar for cracks?

The NZ Transport Agency's investigation showed that even without evidence of early warning signs, such as rust stains or cracks, the drawbar can break. Heavy, regular or commercial use of the trailer is likely to accelerate the risk of the drawbar breaking.

What should owners do?

If you've checked the identification plate on your trailer and confirmed the make/model number is TP5 or TP8 (or found the drawbar is bolted rather than welded to the trailer) and therefore subject to the product safety recall, it is important to stop using the trailer to carry any load.

Next, contact Bunnings customer service centre on 0800 561 109 to discuss available options, which may include an assessment to be carried out at a location near you.

What if I'm not sure if my trailer is subject to the recall?

If your trailer has a bolt-on drawbar like the one in the photo above, has a tray size of 8'x4' (2.4m x 1.2m) or 8'x5' (2.4m x 1.5m), and you think your trailer may be subject to the recall, it is advisable to stop using it to carry any load. Contact Bunnings customer service on 0800 561 109 to explain your situation.

Please note that other Trailpro models, including the TP1 and TP6, are not affected by this recall.

What else is the NZ Transport Agency doing?

We have instructed vehicle inspectors to not issue a warrant of fitness (WoF) to affected trailers until the repair work has been carried out.

What will Bunnings do next?

When you call the Bunnings customer service number they will advise you of next steps and what to do with your trailer.

Who pays for the recall of my trailer?

When you call the Bunnings customer service number they will advise you of what options are available to you.

What if I want to do repairs myself or have already had repairs carried out?

If you've already identified a failure and have had your trailer repaired, contact Bunnings customer service on 0800 561 109. If you want to discuss the details of the failure contact the NZ Transport Agency at info@nzta.govt.nz.

What if I do nothing and ignore the advice?

If you continue to use a loaded trailer and an accident occurs you may be subject to penalties from the NZ Police.

How were you alerted to the unsafe trailers?

The NZ Transport Agency carried out an investigation following a report of a Trailpro brand trailer where the drawbar suddenly failed and the trailer completely broke free from the towing vehicle.

Our analysis has found the trailers are not fit for purpose for carrying the rated maximum load. The main area of concern is with the bolted connection of the drawbar to the trailer chassis.

If the drawbar failure occurs, the trailer safety chain has no effect and this poses a significant safety hazard to other road users and bystanders.

Who can I contact to discuss this further?

The NZ Transport Agency recommends you contact the Bunnings customer service centre team directly on 0800 561 109. However, if you would like to discuss this further with the NZ Transport Agency you can send an email to info@nzta.govt.nz. Use 'Bunnings trailer' followed by your trailer's registration plate number in the subject line.