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Customize, Personalize, and Maximize your Utility Trailer

Choosing a utility trailer that's right for you is relatively easy if the trailer will be assigned a single task like transporting a new ATV. You simply look for a trailer at the best price that has the space and capacity to accommodate it. However, that's rarely the case with a utility trailer. Most need to be good at multi-tasking. One week you may be hauling your new ATV, the next hauling your mower to Grandmas, or moving your daughter to college after returning from a golf tournament with your cart. Utility trailers seem to have a life of their own.

There are several options and features to consider when looking for a trailer. One of the first things you need to consider prior to purchasing a trailer is how you plan to use it and maybe even a few ways you didn't plan to use it. With this in mind you can make sure to buy a trailer with not only the deck space and carrying capacity you need, but also the right options and accessories.

"A common mistake people make is to underestimate the usage of the trailer," said Lonnie Benningsdorf, sales and customer service representative for ShoreLand'r[®]. "Inevitably they end up buying a trailer that doesn't have enough deck space or carrying capacity, the right options, and adequate running gear," continued Benningsdorf. "It's important to consider what your long-term needs may be. If you think you may need to haul bigger loads in the future, it's much cheaper to buy a bigger trailer now than replacing one that is too small. Overloading the trailer could cause damage."

After assessing your trailer use, make sure the construction meets your needs. The deck and frame construction is critical. Most utility trailer decks are made of wire mesh or plywood, but if you're looking for a tough trailer, a steel platform deck that's reinforced with steel cross-members on a steel frame may be for you. A welded, 14-gauge steel

tube frame is the strongest in the industry. It provides less flex and optimum support to ensure longer trailer life. Steel deck surfaces and frames are not as prone to weld breaks or degradation of material.

After reviewing the deck construction, take a look underneath. The quality of the running gear, including the chassis, tire size, spindles and hubs, is crucial to having a smooth and safe ride. Some running gear is not meant to travel long distances at high speeds. If you're only planning to use your trailer around town, running gear is unimportant, but if you plan to use it on a camping trip to the Rocky Mountains it's imperative to check the spindle welds quality. If the spindles are not welded perfectly, tire vibration at high speeds will be a factor. "Precision machine cast-iron hubs and robot-welded spindles will ensure a smoother, safer ride," said Bennigsdorf.

Lastly, if you don't want to waste time with malfunctioning lights, be sure it has a reliable electrical system that is fully grounded with wires run inside the frame to protect it from the elements.

One of the biggest advantages of ShoreLand'r trailer is the ability to personalize and customize the trailer with accessories that allow you to maximize your use of the trailer and safeguard your precious cargo.

There are a variety of ramp options available. For loading low clearance items such as a Fat Boy or lawn mower, you'll want to consider a low profile ramp that is light enough to lift, yet reinforced to handle the heaviest loads. If you plan to haul ATV's you may want to consider side-loading ramps to open up more loading and unloading options. Also consider the deck surface slope. "Lower drive-on deck heights provide the optimum angle, offering better clearance and easier loading," stated Bennigsdorf.

Optional motorcycle shield's, front wheel chock kits, and tie-downs are also handy if hauling a bike. The heavy-duty steel construction provides maximum protection for your gear while providing a sturdy base for securing your bike.

Other accessories available to maximize your trailer usage are storage boxes, spare tires, and side rails.

For more information on trailers for all types of uses, visit www.shorelandr.com or contact Midwest Industries, 102 E. State Hwy 175, Ida Grove, IA 51445, Phone: 800-859-3028, Fax: 712-364-3361.