

BUNNINGS TRAILPRO TRAILERS RECALL AND TP1 REVOCATION

Questions and answers

12 MARCH 2020

What is the Trailpro trailers product safety recall?

Bunnings has commenced a voluntary recall of all Bunnings Trailpro trailers sold between 2005 and October 2018 due to safety concerns. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is revoking the Warrants of Fitness (WoF) for TP1 trailers due to our concerns following inspections of the TP1 trailers.

The risk is related to the trailer's drawbar which may break at the front where it attaches to the front of the trailer chassis.

Which models of Trailpro trailers are affected?

Previous recalls were made on the following trailers in November 2018:

- Trailpro 8x4 Tradesman – Model number TP5 (A-frame drawbar)
- Trailpro 8x5 Tandem - Model number TP8 (A frame drawbar)

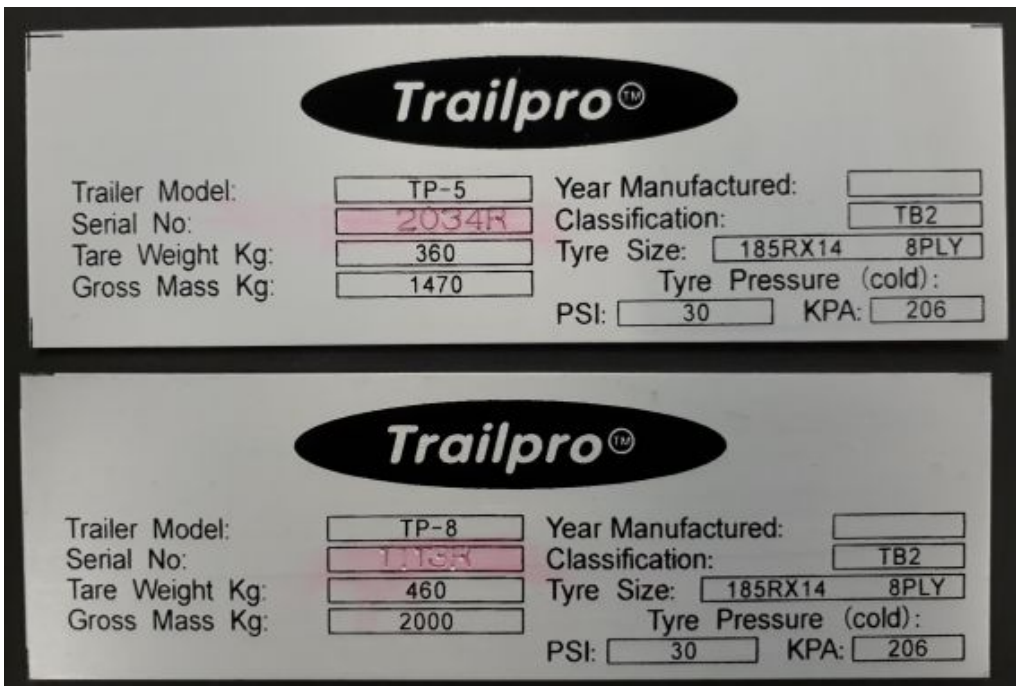
Bunnings is now recalling the other three models sold:

- Trailpro 7x4 Handyman – Model no. TP1 (A-frame drawbar)
- Trailpro 500 5X3 – Model no. TP6 (Single drawbar)
- Trailpro Weekender (A-frame drawbar).

There have been no reports of incidents involving the TP6 and Weekender models, but Bunnings has proactively decided to recall these models in the interests of safety.

Note: If you own a Trailpro 8x4 Tradesman (TP5) or 8x5 Tandem (TP8) trailer and the serial number on the identification plate ends with an "R", your trailer has been repaired as part of the previous recall and you are not required to take any further action.

Please see examples below:



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

The Trailpro models were only sold by Bunnings but you may have purchased your trailer elsewhere second hand. 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.

Example below of a TP1 model:



If the identification plate is missing, damaged or obscured, contact Bunnings on 0800 561 109.

Is it safe to use my trailer?

You should stop using the trailer to carry any load. Once you have contacted the Bunnings customer service line on 0800 561 109 you may return the trailer to your local store in an unloaded capacity to obtain your refund.

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 trailer is a Trailpro brand (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.

Contact Bunnings on **0800 561 109** to discuss your next steps.

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 below 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.

Example of a bolt-on drawbar:



What else is the NZ Transport Agency doing?

We have instructed vehicle inspectors to not issue a warrant of fitness (WoF) to TP1 trailers, and we will be inspecting the TP6 and Weekender models to determine our next course of action.

What will Bunnings do next?

When you call the Bunnings customer service on **0800 561 109** they will advise you of the next steps and what to do with your trailer.

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**.

What if I do nothing and ignore the advice?

If you continue to use a loaded TP1 trailer and an incident involving the trailer 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 reports of Trailpro TP1 trailers 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 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.

There have been no reports of incidents involving the TP6 and Weekender models, but Bunnings has proactively decided to recall these models.

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 as they are taking the recall action.

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.