



Cost of Ownership Differences

Timpte Aluminum Trailers vs. Steel Trailers

It's no secret the initial cost for an aluminum trailer is often higher than steel. However, being lightweight and durable gives aluminum trailers additional benefits over steel, and a lot of these benefits come with hidden cost savings. Let's compare the costs of owning an aluminum trailer and steel trailer.

	Timpte Aluminum	Steel
Fuel Economy <p>The lighter your vehicle the more fuel efficient it becomes.</p> <p>An extra 100 lbs. in your vehicle could reduce your MPG by 1-2% (U.S. Dept. of Energy).</p> <div> <div>Fuel Economy:</div> <div>➖ 1-2%</div> </div> <div> <div>Fuel Cost Savings:</div> <div>➖ \$0.04 - \$0.07</div> <div>(Per gallon)</div> </div> <p>Fuel Price: \$4/gallon</p>	<p>Aluminum trailers are generally 20% lighter than steel, leading to improved fuel efficiency.</p> <p>For example, our Ramped 1018 Flat Deck Trailer offers weight savings up to 600 lbs. compared to a similar steel trailer. With the reduced weight you could see the following fuel benefits:</p> <div> <div>Fuel Economy:</div> <div>➕ 6-12%</div> </div> <div> <div>Fuel Cost Savings:</div> <div>➕ \$0.24 - \$0.42</div> <div>(Per gallon)</div> </div>	<p>Steel trailers generally weigh more than aluminum trailers with the same GVWR, lowering the overall fuel efficiency.</p> <p>Using the same example as before, if a similar steel trailer weighs 600 lbs. more than our Ramped 1018, you could see the following impact in fuel efficiency:</p> <div> <div>Fuel Economy:</div> <div>➖ 6-12%</div> </div> <div> <div>Fuel Cost Savings:</div> <div>➖ \$0.24 - \$0.42</div> <div>(Per gallon)</div> </div>
Payload Capacity <p>Having a higher payload capacity boosts overall hauling efficiency and allows you to get the most out of your trailer.</p>	<p>While aluminum trailers are generally lighter, they can have comparable or higher payload capacities due to their strength-to-weight ratio.</p> <p>This allows you to maximize your loads and carry a higher load capacity than steel trailers with the same GVWR.</p> <div> <div>Payload Capacity:</div> <div>➕ 10-15%</div> </div>	<p>The additional weight of a steel trailer negatively affects the strength-to-weight ratio and also limits the trailer's payload capacity.</p> <p>A lower payload capacity will decrease the overall hauling efficiency of your trailer.</p> <div> <div>Payload Capacity:</div> <div>➖ 10-15%</div> </div>
Durability <p>A trailer's ability to resist wear, pressure, and damage over time determines the overall durability. Trailer's with improved durability will have longer lifespans than other trailers.</p> <p>Selecting a trailer that is resistant to rust and corrosion will significantly improve longevity.</p>	<p>Part of what makes aluminum so durable is its resistance to corrosion. Aluminum alloy extrusions generally do not rust because aluminum forms a protective oxide layer when exposed to air, preventing corrosion, even after exposure to harsh weather conditions. Durability plays an important role in aluminum trailers holding their value over time. With regular maintenance aluminum trailers can stay looking and performing like new for years.</p> <p>Timpte uses mechanical fasteners to assemble our trailers. By building trailers with mechanically fastened joints we are able to achieve maximum strength, durability, and longevity out of the aluminum. Other aluminum trailer manufacturers use welding to assemble their trailers. Welding is a cheap and easy construction method, but reduces the structural integrity of an aluminum trailer by 40%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➕ Corrosion Resistance ➕ Mechanically Fastened Joints ➕ Improved Durability 	<p>With regular use, steel trailers can experience issues due to rust and corrosion. Factors such as exposure to harsh weather conditions, road salt, and corrosive elements can affect the lifespan of a steel trailer.</p> <p>Being susceptible to rust and corrosion issues makes steel trailers more likely to sustain costly damage over time. In some cases, the structural integrity of the trailer can be weakened by rust problems. Regular maintenance, proper storage, and adherence to manufacturer guidelines can extend the lifespan of your trailer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➖ Prone to Rust & Corrosion ➖ More Likely to Sustain Costly Damage ➖ Higher Risk of Weakened Structural Integrity

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE →



Cost of Ownership Differences

Timpte Aluminum Trailers vs. Steel Trailers

	Timpte Aluminum	Steel																																		
<h3>Maintenance & Repairs</h3> <p>Both types of trailers are going to require maintenance and repairs. The extent and frequency of repairs depends on factors like the trailer's usage, maintenance practices, and environmental conditions.</p>	<p>Maintaining and repairing an aluminum trailer is generally less intensive than maintaining a steel trailer due to aluminum's corrosion resistance. However, routine maintenance is important to optimize performance and longevity. Let's examine common repairs and associated cost estimates for owning an aluminum trailer for a 5-year period:</p> <table><tr><th>Repair</th><th>Cost Estimate</th></tr><tr><td>Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.</td><td>\$200-\$1,000</td></tr><tr><td>Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.</td><td>\$150-\$500</td></tr><tr><td>Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.</td><td>\$50-\$200 per tire</td></tr><tr><td>Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.</td><td>\$50-\$200</td></tr><tr><td>Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.</td><td>\$20-\$100</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total Cost Estimate: \$500 - \$2,600</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Less Intensive Repairs+ Lower Repair Cost+ Fewer Repairs+ Less Likely to Sustain Costly Damage	Repair	Cost Estimate	Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.	\$200-\$1,000	Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.	\$150-\$500	Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.	\$50-\$200 per tire	Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.	\$50-\$200	Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.	\$20-\$100	Total Cost Estimate: \$500 - \$2,600		<p>Both steel and aluminum trailers will experience similar repairs after several years of ownership. However, steel trailers are susceptible to rust and corrosion, especially if they've been exposed to harsh weather conditions, road salt, or corrosive materials. Issues with rust can lead to costly repairs over time. In extreme cases the structural integrity of a steel trailer can be weakened from rust and corrosion. Below are some common repairs and associated cost estimates for a steel trailer over a 5-year period of ownership:</p> <table><tr><th>Repair</th><th>Cost Estimate</th></tr><tr><td>Rust & Corrosion Sanding, priming, and repainting affected areas.</td><td>\$100-\$500</td></tr><tr><td>Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.</td><td>\$200-\$1,000</td></tr><tr><td>Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.</td><td>\$150-\$500</td></tr><tr><td>Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.</td><td>\$50-\$200 per tire</td></tr><tr><td>Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.</td><td>\$50-\$200</td></tr><tr><td>Floor & Deck Issues Repairing or replacing damaged sections of the floor or deck.</td><td>\$100-\$500</td></tr><tr><td>Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.</td><td>\$50-\$200</td></tr><tr><td>Latches & Fasteners Tightening or replacing fasteners, lubricating hinges, and ensuring proper functionality.</td><td>\$20-\$100</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total Cost Estimate: \$720 - \$3,800</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More Intensive Repairs- Higher Repair Cost- More Repairs- More Likely to Sustain Costly Damage	Repair	Cost Estimate	Rust & Corrosion Sanding, priming, and repainting affected areas.	\$100-\$500	Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.	\$200-\$1,000	Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.	\$150-\$500	Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.	\$50-\$200 per tire	Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.	\$50-\$200	Floor & Deck Issues Repairing or replacing damaged sections of the floor or deck.	\$100-\$500	Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.	\$50-\$200	Latches & Fasteners Tightening or replacing fasteners, lubricating hinges, and ensuring proper functionality.	\$20-\$100	Total Cost Estimate: \$720 - \$3,800	
Repair	Cost Estimate																																			
Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.	\$200-\$1,000																																			
Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.	\$150-\$500																																			
Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.	\$50-\$200 per tire																																			
Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.	\$50-\$200																																			
Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.	\$20-\$100																																			
Total Cost Estimate: \$500 - \$2,600																																				
Repair	Cost Estimate																																			
Rust & Corrosion Sanding, priming, and repainting affected areas.	\$100-\$500																																			
Axle & Suspension Components Replacing bearings, bushings, or the entire suspension system.	\$200-\$1,000																																			
Brake System Replacement of brake pads, rotors, or brake lines.	\$150-\$500																																			
Tires Rotating tires, fixing punctures, or replacing tires.	\$50-\$200 per tire																																			
Wiring & Lighting Checking & replacing damaged wiring and bulbs.	\$50-\$200																																			
Floor & Deck Issues Repairing or replacing damaged sections of the floor or deck.	\$100-\$500																																			
Hitch Components Lubricating moving parts, inspecting for wear, and replacing components.	\$50-\$200																																			
Latches & Fasteners Tightening or replacing fasteners, lubricating hinges, and ensuring proper functionality.	\$20-\$100																																			
Total Cost Estimate: \$720 - \$3,800																																				
<h3>Resale Value</h3> <p>Maintaining the resale value of a trailer involves a combination of regular maintenance and proper care throughout its ownership.</p>	<p>The initial cost of an aluminum trailer is often higher than steel. However, the durability of an aluminum trailer helps to preserve its value over time. It's simple, a used trailer in good condition is worth more than one that is damaged or starting to rust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Higher Resale Value+ Maintains Visual Appearance	<p>Steel's tendency to rust decreases its resale value and affects the visual appearance of the trailer. In some cases, steel trailers that are only a few years old can develop rust patches that are difficult to hide or manage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Depreciating Resale Value- Deteriorated Visual Appearance																																		

KEEP IN MIND...

Keep in mind that these are general estimates, and actual costs may vary based on factors like location, labor rates, and specific trailer models. It's advisable to consult with a professional trailer repair service for a more accurate assessment based on your specific trailer model and its condition. Regular maintenance can help reduce the frequency and cost of repairs over time.