

Wheel Nuts and Studs



Wheel nuts and studs are arguably one of the most important aspects of a Recreational Vehicle—but how often are they actually checked? As an industry business it is necessary to educate the consumer as to the importance of regularly checking and tightening the wheel nuts on their Recreational Vehicle whilst on the road.

Recreational Vehicle Dealers should be going through this process during the handover of each and every vehicle sold. In terms of processes, Vehicle Components have developed several customer information sheets (available on their website) which are designed to educate the consumer on topics such as this. In reference to wheel nuts, Vehicle Components state, *“When a wheel is first fitted or removed there is an immediate settling in period where the wheels nuts will need retightening. Trailers tend to experience higher wheel loads than cars especially in tandem configuration and so extra effort should be taken to ensure wheel nuts remain tight. Proceed as follows:*

1. *Make sure the wheel and hub mating surfaces, as well as the wheel studs and nuts, are free of oil and all foreign material. Do not lubricate wheel studs.*
2. *Install the wheel and hand-tighten the wheel nuts.*
3. *Using a wheel or air wrench, lightly tighten all the wheel nuts, in a criss-cross pattern, until they are snug.*
4. *Lower the vehicle to the ground*
5. *Using a torque wrench, tighten the wheel nuts in a “criss-cross” pattern to the vehicle manufacturer’s torque specification.*

