

# REAL

December 2022

# Torque

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

## Bulky Tarp Covers

Truck tarpaulins, commonly called 'Tarps', are used to cover the load inside a bulk tipper or bin. This is to keep the load covered, secured, dry and helps prevent dust from spreading around while the truck and trailer drive down the road. There are a few types of tarps. There are manual ones in use, but the most common nowadays are driver-operated winch types and even electrically driven tarps. There are different types of tarp materials available as well, rated for high temp products. Not all tarp material can handle hot product like Hot Mix/Asphalt.



### TYPE OF TARP COMMONLY USED

#### 1. Spring roll-back tipper covers

These are a simple style of tarp and requires the driver to manually secure and roll up the tarp.



#### 2. Manual roll-over

Manually operated and allows the driver to roll the cover over and lock it in place.



#### 3. Wire rope wind-up tarp cover

This can be electrically operated or manually operated depending on the model. This style of tarp opens and closes using guides along the edge of the trailer.

Tarp in the closed position.



Tarp in the open position.



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

When checking in a unit with a tarp fitted, or even during the daily inspection, there are a few basic things to look for to ensure the tarp will work and operate as intended.

As the below images show, these holes and tears will allow water in and if not repaired it will quickly increase in size making repair difficult. Also check any seals if fitted to make sure they are not cut or damaged.



**1** Check the **universal joint (UJ)**. Make sure it's lubricated and operates smoothly. A seized UJ will not allow the tarp to roll easily.

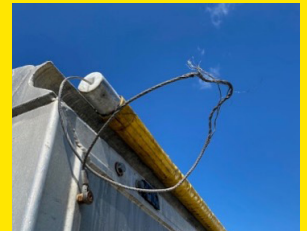
**2** Make sure the **locking latch is in place** and operates to ensure the handle stays locked in place.



**1**  
Close up of the locking latch in place.



**2**  
This UJ could do with more lubrication.



The **wire rope** wind-up type needs a bit more attention and inspection. Make sure the guides and tracks the tarp runs along are free of dirt and rocks and are not bent or damaged. You also want to check the wire rope itself and make sure it is in good condition and not frayed like the one in the above picture.



Check the **nylon bow stays** are in place and all accounted for. These are used to hold the shape of the tarp and allow water to run off. Some units may also be fitted with a load binder strap to help keep the walls from flexing.

## Tips and Tricks



### TR Tips

- ▶ To prevent the tarp from flapping and potentially damaging itself, make sure it is secured before travelling down the road.
- ▶ In really windy conditions you may need an extra load binder over the tarp to prevent rips and tear-off incidents.
- ▶ To extend the life of the tarp, wash it down and allow it to dry off.
- ▶ If you do spot any tears in the tarp material, get it repaired as soon as possible.
- ▶ If you are inspecting a tarp, make sure you isolate the unit using a lockout tag and if working at heights ensure correct working at heights procedures are followed
- ▶ Ensure correct gear is used when lifting the bins, safety props, lock pins installed, etc.

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