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Aftermarket Lube Plates and Grease Packs

Aftermarket lube plates (as seen in Figure 1) are being offered by some aftermarket distributors. Fontaine® Fifth Wheel does not recommend using any lube plates with Fontaine fifth wheels. The aftermarket lube plates change the position of the kingpin's lower flange which, in turn, affects the fifth wheel's ability to trigger the lock. In addition, after some wear, the lube plates can tear apart and lodge into the fifth wheel locking mechanism. Fontaine also does not recommend the use of the grease packs offered by the same aftermarket distributors. After the grease is removed from the pack, the pack itself is still left inside the throat of the fifth wheel which could cause the locking mechanism of the fifth wheel to fail. These issues can prevent the proper operation of the fifth wheel and can cause a dangerous condition.



Figure 1: Aftermarket lube plates

Customers looking for a no-lube option should consider the 7000CC series wheel. The clean connect pads are embedded into the top plate surface so that the position of the lower flange of the kingpin is unaffected (see Figure 2).





Figure 2: 7000CC series top plate

Fontaine does not recommend using aftermarket fifth wheel products with Fontaine fifth wheels. The use of these products may void the warranty of the fifth wheel.

If an issue with aftermarket fifth wheel prevention has not been fully addressed by this technical bulletin, please contact Fontaine Fifth Wheel at 800.874.9780.