

TRASH BOX

5 MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR SMALL CANS



Routine maintenance on a small can is very important for the longevity of a container. Minor tasks such as standard review of all components and keeping the container clean will ensure that the container will last and continue making money for the company. For older containers, larger maintenance may need to be performed like replacing parts, repainting, or a complete refurbishment. It is up to the owner of the small cans to complete this maintenance. Here are the five points of the small can that should be looked at during inspection.

1. PickUp & Lifting Points

As the most important spec of the small can, you want to ensure that the pickup/lifting points are strong enough to withstand everyday use. On a front load container, the fork pockets are often formed from 7GA steel and fully welded 18" from the bottom of the container. When used in conjunction with front-end loader garbage trucks, the forks on the front of the truck lift the container above the cab to be dumped into the container. On a rear load container, the lifting point, or trunnion bar, is often a 1 1/2" formed bar, however, could be hot or cold formed based on size for a stronger construction. A rear load container also features a pickup hook. Both of these points on a rear load container are used in conjunction with rear loader garbage trucks. The grasping hooks at the rear opening of the truck hook onto the trunnion bars and the operator can choose to use a chain on the pickup hooks for additional support when the hydraulic operation lifts and empties the container. If any point of these components on the small cans appears damaged or distorted, it is imperative to replace these parts.



2. Lids & Lid Components

The standard lid on both front load and rear load small cans features a plastic design hinged lid. To connect the lids to the container, they are set on the open top and aligned with the lid tabs while a lid rod is slotted through the tabs and lid hinges. The most obvious damage that can be seen on the lids of small cans is if they have any holes or cracks. A less obvious sign of an issue would be if the lids no longer align and properly cover the container or if the lids are not opening when getting dumped into the truck. In this case, the plastic lids could simply be bent or warped or there could be an issue with the lid rod or lid tabs.

Some small cans are manufactured with custom steel lids or will come with mount locks to prevent animals from getting into the containers. If that is the case, those components should also be reviewed. Check that the lids have no excessive damage or dents that could cause animals or other unwanted substances in the container. Check that the mount locks are working as they should and align with the container to properly be locked.

3. Bottoms

While there is a drain hole on the bottom of the container to allow unwanted liquids such as rain water to be easily removed, an operator will want to make sure that this is not occurring when it's not supposed to. Meaning, if the bottom of the container has areas where contents are leaking or even falling out, it is time to be repaired or replaced. To repair the bottom, it can be a simple fix with a piece of steel that is welded on in a singular section or if the bottom of the container is severely damaged, a replacement bottom can be purchased to cover it all. Replacement bottoms may be purchased by the container manufacturer or by a small can parts seller.

4. Casters & Side Doors

Casters and side doors are optional add-ons to small cans depending on their size and usage. While casters are often seen on 2-4 yard small cans for easy maneuverability, side doors are on 6-8 yard cans as they are often used for easier accessibility since they are taller. Depending on the type of caster, whether it's rigid or swivel, ensure that the wheel is rolling as intended and that the caster is properly placed and locked in the caster pad to prevent the container from falling. Side doors should be easily opened and closed on the side door rail. Once again, if any of these components appear to have excessive wear or are not working as intended, they will need to be replaced.



5. Paint

Paint is more than just a nice finish. It is the container's first line of defense against damage and rust. The prime and paint can wear over time, and sometimes, depending on use or extreme weather conditions, this process may be faster than expected. A quick fix would be to paint over the areas in which the paint has been scratched or is showing signs of rust. At some point, the whole small can may need to be sanded and repainted to give it new life.

If any parts are experiencing excess wear or have any damage, it is important to replace them as soon as possible. If the container is beyond your repair expertise, it may be beneficial to reach out to a refurbishment center to see what they can do. It could also be time to purchase a new one. However, completing these simple inspections will lead to a longer working life of a small can and keep the business in motion.

