



Handling Flat-Top Trailer Guide

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Scope

The headboard is the last line of load restraint for a flatbed trailer & container base.

If a load is tied down to provide the required restraint for the sideways, rearwards and vertical direction, the headboard can provide some, or all, of the extra restraint required for heavy braking or minor collisions.

The driver inside the towing unit is in the line of fire of the load on the trailer bed.

It is the headboard of the trailer or container base which will be able to protect the driver.

The headboard should be made of strong frames and strong supports and engineered to take the force, decelerate, and stop the load in case of heavy braking.

Why use a headboard?

A headboard prevents the load from moving forwards during heavy braking.

Headboards provide the driver of the vehicle with additional safety benefits in the event of an unexpected load shift.

What are rated headboards?

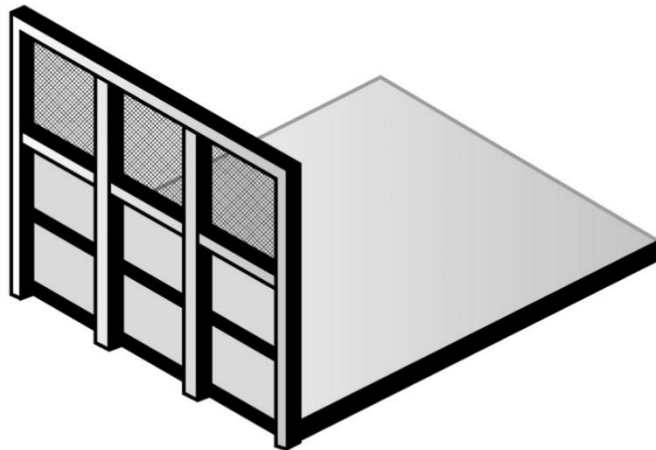
Rated headboards have been designed and certified by an engineer to withstand the forces experienced with transporting loads.

Using a rated headboard

- Rated headboards are designed to restrain loads.
- Rated headboards provide added protection for the driver.

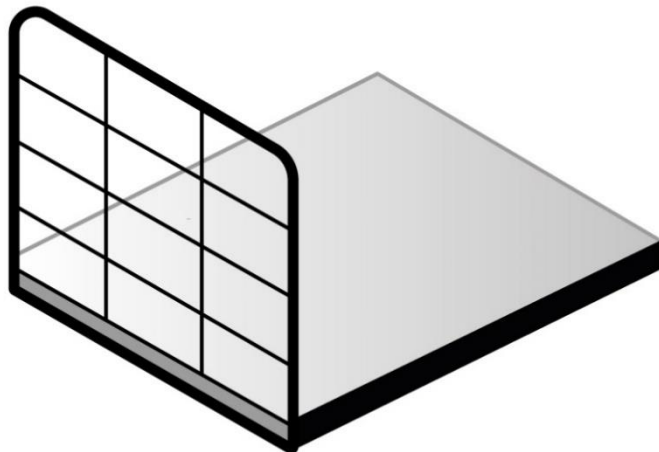
Recommended:

✔ USING A RATED HEADBOARD



Not Recommended:

⚠ USING AN UNRATED HEADBOARD

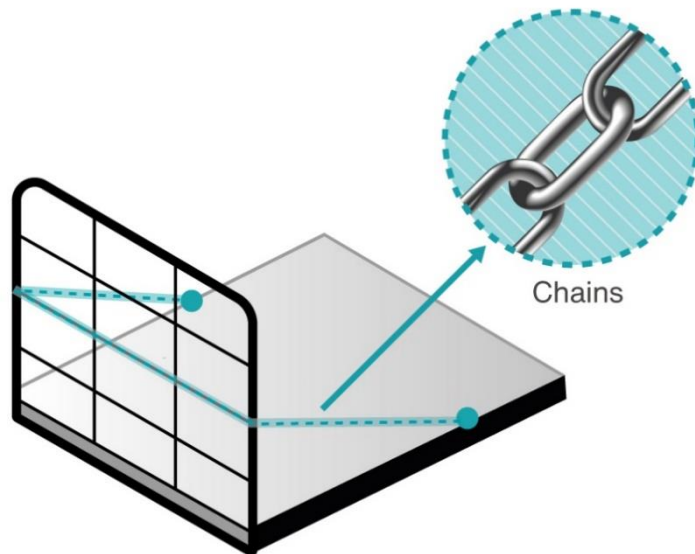


Bracing the headboard

- Tubular headboards can be strengthened by adding additional bracing.
- Transport chain should be used to reinforce tubular headboards.
- The reinforcing chain angle should not exceed 30°.

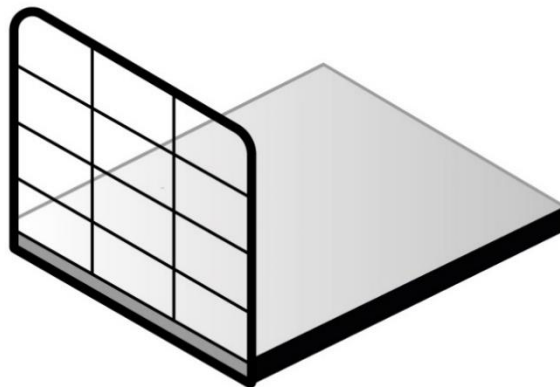
Recommended:

✔ BRACING THE HEADBOARD



Not Recommended:

⚠ NOT USING BRACING

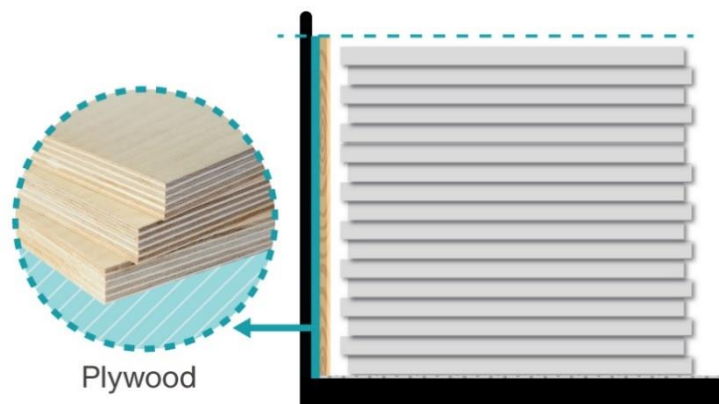


Blocking the load

- Individual items should not be loaded above any headboard or gate.
- Adding plywood to a tubular headboard can help restrain smaller individual items.
- Adding a metal sheet or form plywood will help spread the load.

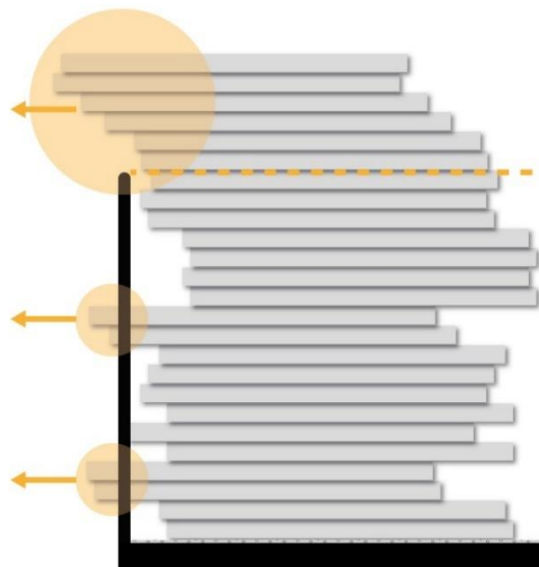
Recommended:

✔ BLOCKING THE LOAD WITH PLYWOOD



Not Recommended:

⚠ NOT BLOCKING THE LOAD



Examples of acceptable headboard use



Examples of unacceptable headboard use

