

Trailer Step Screws Keep Breaking

Question 1: The screws on my steps keep breaking. They are special units with shoulders and the top left screw has broken four times. Why is this happening? What can I do about it?

Question 2: I keep losing screws from my steps especially on a caravan. How can I fix this?

Answer: Over the years the trailer vibration and weight of the steps tends to loosen the screws and cause wear to the step threads. Eventually the screws get loose, and with worn step threads, the screw can tilt. This puts a large side force on the screws and could cause them to break. Sometimes the screws get so loose they just fall out while you are on the road. The answer is to make sure the screws are always tight even when the step threads are worn. Thoroughly clean the screw and the step threads and then apply blue Loctite to the screw threads prior to assembly. There are several grades of Loctite, with the blue being removable with hand tools. Do not use the red version as it requires very high heat to remove the screw. Tighten the screws and allow the Loctite to dry for 24 hours. Do this to all of the screws and step threads, being sure you thoroughly clean them, prior to the Loctite application. You can use WD-40 to clean them just let it dry thoroughly before re-assembly.