



Look after your carriage in the same way as you would look after your car

“Hello, you’re through to Bennington”

Sue Mart at Bennington Carriages answers some questions customers often ask her during the winter months.

I’m out and about driving in all weathers and my carriage gets very muddy. Should I be doing anything special to protect it or clean it during the winter months?

Looking after your carriage is essential because it is a big investment. You should treat it in the same way as you do your car by washing it regularly and having it serviced every year.

There are several things you can do to keep your carriage in good repair. First of all, make sure you wash and dry it off after every use. Then, lubricate all the moving parts with WD40 or similar, after the carriage has got wet, taking care not to spray it onto the braking surfaces.

If you’re using a power washer, don’t use it around the hub and brake areas.

Also, keep any leather parts, such as the seat straps on your carriage, supple by applying saddle soap and touch up any chipped paint work as soon as you possibly can.



Sue Mart offers a customer some advice over the phone

I turn my driving ponies away during the winter months as I don’t compete at this time of year. What considerations do I need to make when it comes to storing my carriage?

There are several things you need to consider when storing your carriage away for the winter. Here are some of my thoughts...



Always wash and dry your carriage if it gets wet and muddy



Your carriage is likely to get muddy if you’re out and about driving in winter

Take the opportunity to have the carriage professionally serviced and have any alterations made during the down time from carriage driving. Keep the carriage dry and lubricate all the moving parts before you store it away for the winter. Always store it in a covered area and make sure the carriage is fully protected from the elements. Take care to ensure that the carriage is safe and secure.

You can buy a padlock or two or even remove one wheel to deter intruders. If possible remove the cushions so that they don’t get damaged by vermin. Check your carriage on a regular basis, to ensure it stays protected from the elements. If you own a traditional carriage, make sure the wheels are jacked up off the ground and if it’s a two-wheel carriage, make sure the shafts are supported on a shaft stand.