

# NEWS RELEASE

FONTAINE

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:  
Kristen Simpson  
Simpson Communications, LLC  
(216) 991-4297  
simpsoncomm@aol.com

## Less Grease Equals More Green for Fleets

**Irondale, Ala. (Aug. 14, 2008)** – Fleets looking to save some green while “going green” may want to start with changes to their fifth wheel lubrication procedures.

A fifth wheel must be sufficiently lubricated in order to work properly. But use too much grease, and it just gets scraped and squeezed off, wasting money and polluting water. In fact, industry estimates place the amount of grease washed off fifth wheel top plates at around 100 million pounds per year.

One way fleets can reduce their lubrication costs and protect the environment is to avoid over-greasing their fifth wheel top plates. Another option is to make the switch to fifth wheels that don't require any top plate lubrication, like the 7000CC Series Clean Connect™ fifth wheels from Fontaine International.

The top plates of Fontaine Clean Connect fifth wheels contain high-strength plastic insert pads that reduce friction between the top plate surface and the trailer coupling plate, so no grease is required. Only periodic greasing of the locking mechanism is necessary. As a result, the costs of labor, materials, downtime and disposal associated with greasing and re-greasing the top plate are eliminated, as is the possibility of stormwater pollution from excess lubricant falling onto roadways.

Fontaine has reduced the need for lubrication on many of its fifth wheel mounts, as well. The greaseless bracket liner installed in many of Fontaine's air slides, manual slides and adjustable plate mounts uses similar technology to the Clean Connect inserts to provide consistent lubrication, reduce wear and cut maintenance costs. These mounts are compatible with traditional and Clean Connect top plates.

“We are constantly exploring new and better ways to improve our customers' experiences with Fontaine fifth wheels,” says Terry Mennen, Fontaine International vice president of sales and marketing. “By drastically reducing the need for lubrication on many of our fifth wheel products, we are helping fleets save time and money, while reducing our overall environmental impact. And that is a positive step for everyone.”

-more-

*Less Grease Equals More Green for Fleets*  
*Add 1*

The 7000CC Series Clean Connect fifth wheels incorporate Fontaine's patented No-Slack® II lock design, the world's only self-adjusting fifth wheel lock. Their exclusive safety trigger eliminates false trailer couplings to prevent high-hitching. An optional in-cab air release is operable only when the parking brake is set, for peace of mind.

Because the trailer moves easily on the Clean Connect surface, steering is improved and tire life may be extended. The Clean Connect fifth wheels also perform better in cold weather than those with greased top plates, because grease tends to solidify in cold temperatures, increasing friction and making it more difficult to maneuver the trailer.

Fontaine Clean Connect top plates also minimize the need to steam clean the grease off the fifth wheel surface for inspections and maintenance, making it easier for technicians to spot any potential safety issues.

Although aftermarket lube plates are marketed for use with any manufacturer's fifth wheels, Fontaine does not recommend them, because their additional thickness may prevent the proper operation of the fifth wheel locking mechanism.

For more information about the 7000CC Series Clean Connect fifth wheels from Fontaine International or any other products in Fontaine's full line of fifth wheels, visit [www.fifthwheel.com](http://www.fifthwheel.com) or call (800) 874-9780.

### **About Fontaine**

Based in Irondale, Ala., Fontaine International, Inc. is the world's largest fifth wheel manufacturer. It has ISO 14001 registered manufacturing facilities worldwide.

Fontaine is a Marmon Highway Technologies (MHT) company. MHT companies support the transportation industry worldwide with a wide range of high-quality products and services.

MHT companies are members of The Marmon Group, an international association of more than 125 business units that operate independently within diverse business sectors. Member companies have combined revenues of \$7 billion. The Marmon Group is a Berkshire Hathaway company.

#

*Less Grease Equals More Green for Fleets  
Add 2*



*Fifth wheels that don't require top plate lubrication, like the Fontaine 7000CC Series Clean Connect™, help reduce pollution caused by excessive fifth wheel grease.*