

Converting Mobile Home Axles

By Northwest Outdoors

Instructions for converting mobile home axle to use on trailers.

Modifying Mobile Home Axles:

Please note, if you do not have axles from a manufactured home or axles that need modifications to the width of the axles, please return to the main set of trailer plans.

If you are using axles from a manufactured home, or any axles that are too wide, they are going to need to be modified to fit this trailer. Your axles need to be 8 ½ feet wide (102 inches). Usually the axles from a manufactured home are going to be too wide, so we are going to cut out a section so that they will fit properly.

A few things that you might want to have on hand for this part of the project are:

Tape Measure

Grinder

A Couple Large "C" Clamps

A Hacksaw or a Reciprocating Saw (Saws-All)



When you got the mobile home axles, if they didn't have wheels and tires, then you will need to get those separate. In this case you may want to get some wheel adapters so that you can run standard sizes of wheels and tires on the trailer. We found a few deals for these online so I will include the links below.

(You can convert the mobile home axles to take regular a 6 on 5.5" bolt circle with a 3 3/8" center "Pilot" hole, which is standard on most 6 hole pick up trucks and all 6 hole trailers. Or to 8 hole hubs, to fit standard 8 hole truck wheels.) With new bearings and all they run about \$39.00 a hub or wheel. But if you really want the standard size tires and wheels, I think going this route would still be way cheaper than trying to buy the axles at retail. Here is the website where you can get these, I found these guys on eBay, its...

<http://picclick.com/1-NEW-Trailer-Axle-Hub-260396537230.html>.

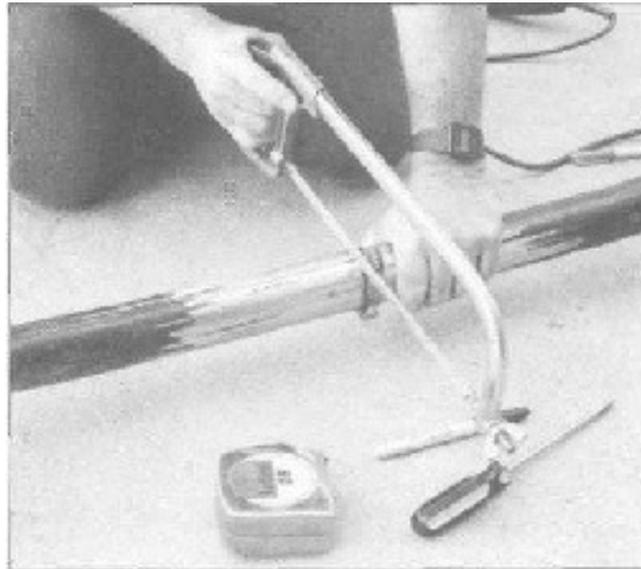
If that doesn't work, then go to: <http://picclick.com>

We also found these folks so Im adding the link below. R and P Carriages, Trailer and RV Parts, Sales, Service and Rental On Ebay:

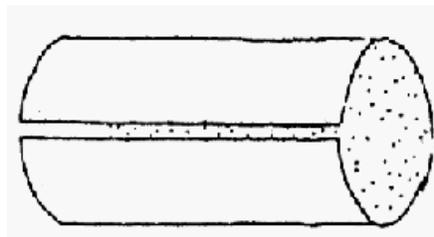
www.ebay.com/itm/1-NEW-Trailer-Axle-Hub-Convert-Mobile-Home-WBearings-/260344947324

The axles from manufactured homes will usually be too wide for this trailer, the width of these axles is usually 10 feet or more. So we are going to cut a piece of the axle out to shorten the width to 102" wide. Once you have the pieces cut off your axles, do not throw them away, you will be using one of them later. One of the most important things to remember while you are working on this project is that you want to make sure that everything is square, square with its self on each end and square with the component you are attaching it to. So you will need to measure and re-measure, check and re-check everything before you weld anything.

Your trailer is 86 inches wide and your axles need to be 102 inches wide. So first you are going to measure from the outside of the axle toward the center 51" and mark it, do the same on both sides ($51 + 51 = 102$). Some people choose to grind the paint off the area's where they are going to be making the cuts. Try to make the cuts as straight as possible, I think it actually works better to make these two cuts with a hack saw, you can put a hose clamp around the axle where you are going to cut, and this will keep the hack saw cut straight. Do not throw the pieces that you have cut off the axles away.



The reason you don't want to throw away the pieces that you have cut out of the axle yet is because you are going to use an 8" long piece from one of the sections of the axles that you cut out and split it down the middle so that you have two half round pieces. (see example below)



Cut the 8" piece down the middle so that you have two half rounds.

You are going to use these once you have finished welding your axle back together. After you have welded your axles back together, you are going to take one of the half round 8” pieces and put it on the bottom side of your axles and cover your weld with it, and then weld it to the axle for extra strength. Your axles need to be 102 inches wide, so be sure you re-measure the axle after you have everything in place and your ready to weld.

Note: If your not use to building and assembling using a tape measure and measurements, you may want to wait until you have the main part of the frame together to match the axles up for the width.. Now you should have your axles cut to the correct length. Next, grind a bevel on both ends, this will help the Weld penetrate the metal. You will need a way to hold the axles in place before you weld them. And remember the importance of the axle being straight and even. Check and re-check.



I used a piece of steel that wouldn't bend placed below the axle and two large "C" clamps.

When you are ready to weld them, make sure you get them perfectly straight first, you don't want one side of your axle to be forward or aft of its other side, also don't forget to align with the spring pads. Now that you have everything lined up straight and ready to weld, and you have something to hold it in place, just tack weld it first and then re-check the alignment before you weld the axle back together. Weld around the axle and fill in the bevel and build-up the bead.

Next, using the piece removed from the center of an axle, make two eight-inch, half-round pieces if you have Not already done so. One of these will be welded to the bottom of each axle joint for additional strength.

Once you have completed the modifications to the axles and you have double checked all of your welds, you can return to the main set of plans.