

AN OVERLOOKED HAZARD ON LANDSCAPE JOB SITES

LOADING & UNLOADING TRAILERS

For many landscapers, trailer ramps are raised and lowered dozens of times every day. But because the task is routine, the risks and physical demands are often overlooked.



22%

of SERIOUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS



account for loading and unloading hazards in landscaping work including falls, crushed fingers, and contact with equipment.¹

Hidden Risks of Traditional Trailer Ramps »

Ramp-related injuries are more common than you think.



REPETITIVE LIFTING AND LOWERING



SHOULDER, BACK, AND KNEE STRAIN



PINCH POINTS AND HAND INJURIES



SLIPS AND FALLS ON WET SURFACES



FATIGUE FROM REPEATED RAMP USE



TRIPPING OVER RAMP DOOR CABLES

Small Injuries, Big Consequences »

Even seemingly minor incidents can contribute to major operational issues.



1-3 DAYS⁴

common length of PROJECT DELAYS



\$5K-\$100K²

cost per incident of COMPENSATION CLAIMS



100s³

of injury-related LOST DAYS OF WORK



\$250-\$750⁴

per trailer per day cost of EQUIPMENT DOWNTIME

Why Landscapers are Paying Attention »

- ✓ Labor shortages
- ✓ Rising operating costs
- ✓ Increased safety expectations
- ✓ Pressure to do more with fewer workers
- ✓ Growing demands for operational efficiency

As a result, more landscapers are evaluating trailer-loading procedures, equipment-handling practices, and ramp design.

The Shift Toward Safer Loading »

Modern landscape fleets are no longer treating trailer ramps as just a trailer accessory, but rather a critical safety component.

Key focus areas include:

- ① Better ramp control
- ② Reduced lifting effort
- ③ Improved ergonomics
- ④ Consistent daily operation
- ⑤ Preventative maintenance

How Safe Assist™ Helps »

Safe Assist™ Ramp Door Assist is designed to make trailer ramp operation easier by making the ramp feel lighter, thus easier to control throughout the entire range of motion.

- ✓ Reduces effort required to raise and lower ramps
- ✓ Improves ramp control
- ✓ Built for more ergonomic ramp handling
- ✓ Eliminates tripping and potential cable hazards
- ✓ Eliminates torsion springs, which removes potential snapping
- ✓ Helps minimize physical demands of repeated ramp use
- ✓ Supports safer and more efficient loading and unloading



Reduce Effort, Improve Control, and Support Safer Loading »

Giving more attention to trailer ramp loading and unloading, ergonomics, and maintenance can help support safer crews, improved productivity, and more reliable everyday operations.

Austin Hardware helps fleets improve ramp operation with Safe Assist™ and dependable trailer hardware solutions.

Sources:

- ¹<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/bulletin/2021/landscaping.html>
²<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7016a1.htm>
³<https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/200361>
⁴<https://www.lite-check.com/blog/trailer-downtime-cost>



For more information
austinhardware.com/safe-assist
Sales@AustinHardware.com
 800.821.3520

