

Shipping Container Repair & Maintenance

Comprehensive Guide

Whether you're considering buying a shipping container or already own one, this comprehensive guide outlines key repair and maintenance steps to extend your container's lifespan. From roof inspections to door seal care, learn how to keep your container weatherproof, rust-free and structurally sound.

STEP 1

Inspect and Repair the Container Roof

The roof is the most critical part of a shipping container to maintain, especially when buying a used unit. Over time, second-hand containers often develop dents from being stacked, which can trap rainwater. This then can lead to corrosion, especially in areas with chipped paint.

If left untreated, corrosion can eventually compromise the structural integrity of the roof and lead to water ingress. Make sure to inspect the roof carefully, repair any dents, and apply a rust-resistant paint to all affected areas to prevent further damage.



Need a container repaired or modified?

Explore our full range of container repairs and modifications by heading over to the page below:

www.sjonescontainers.co.uk/shipping-container-repairs/

STEP 2

Full Container Inspection and Surface Treatment

Many sources claim that containers made from corten steel are completely rust-proof, which is misleading. While corten steel is more corrosion-resistant than standard steel, it is not immune to rust, especially in salt-air environments.

It is important, therefore, to inspect the entire container for dents, scratches, or cuts. These areas must be sealed, painted, and treated with rust-proof paint to ensure long-term durability. Regular maintenance of the steel surface is essential to prevent premature deterioration.



STEP 3

Maintain Container Doors, Hinges, Locking Bars and Seals

The doors are the only moving parts of a container and are prone to wear and tear. To keep them functioning smoothly:

- **Clean:** Use a commercial-grade cleaner to remove dirt, grit, and rust from hinges and locking bars.
- **Lubricate:** Apply a lubricating spray (like **GT85**) to the hinges and a high-quality grease to the cams for optimal operation.

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GT85® ORIGINAL

Product Benefits

- Loosens rusted parts
- Prevents squeaking
- PTFE formula helps lubricate
- Drives out moisture from electrics
- Fast acting cleaner
- Versatile and easy to use



Also, inspect the rubber gasket seals around the doors. These seals typically last up to 10 years, but can degrade sooner. Damaged seals can compromise the container's airtightness, so keep them clean and replace them if they show signs of cracking or wear.



STEP 4

Inspect Any Container Modifications

Any structural modifications, such as [adding windows](#), [doors](#), or joining multiple containers, can introduce new points of weakness that require regular attention. Carefully inspect all modified areas, especially joints and places where metal meets metal.

Look for dirt accumulation, water pooling, and early signs of rust. Clean these sections thoroughly, remove any corrosion, and treat the surfaces with anti-corrosive paint.

This step is particularly important for [converted containers](#) used as buildings, [workshops](#), or [laboratories](#), where structural integrity and weather resistance are critical.



STEP 5

Place the Container on a Level, Well-Drained Surface

To extend the life of your container, always place it on a flat, well-draining surface. An uneven or waterlogged foundation can cause water to collect under the container, accelerating rust and weakening the base over time. A level surface also helps maintain the integrity of doors and structural alignment.

Can we help you repair or modify your container?

We offer a [wide range of expert services](#) - delivered to the highest standard, either at your site or at our fully equipped workshop in Aldridge.

Our [repair services](#) include [repainting](#), [lock replacement](#), and [fixing corrosion or leaks](#). We also carry out [modifications](#) such as [window and door fitting](#), [container cutting](#), [insulation](#), and [racking or shelving installation](#).

Get in touch today to see how we can help!