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Rail Maintenance – An Essential Task [by James Blee](#)

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Every machine needs proper maintenance for efficient functioning. A well maintained rail proves to be an added advantage in terms of safety and hence rail maintenance is essential. The service offered by the railways will be deemed as unsatisfactory if they lack maintenance. Though maintenance might be thought as an expensive affair but it keeps all the equipment in a good working order. Rolling stock is one of the essential components of the railway system which needs proper care as improper maintenance can lead to serious consequences.

As train wheels and axles are vulnerable to fracture hence techniques are used to check the visual signs of damage in order to prevent from any accidents and mishaps. The rolling stock systems are used to confirm that there are no cracks in the wheels or determine the location of the cracks if any. The train brakes are also inspected on a regular basis to check for the wear and tear. The modern brake systems are incorporated with pressure sensors which determine the brake cylinder pressure and even the brake pad pressure..

Not only the exterior but even the train interiors also need maintenance as well as proper servicing. During long intervals, the seating upholstery and carpets within are shampooed and washed to ensure a clean and hygienic environment. Exterior washing is also done to clean the slides and the roof. Apart from this, the toilets also need to be serviced for the removal of the effluent from the storage tanks. After emptying, the tanks are fully rinsed with flushing water containing formaldehyde to break up the deposited waste matter.

To ensure proper running of the railways their maintenance has to be kept in mind at all times before they depart and after they reach. The trackwork, traction power equipment, signaling, communications equipment, fare collection systems as well as other internally installed electronics need to be fairly maintained..

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