

FEATURED PRODUCT

QWIK-E® Gladhand

- Quick-release valve and gladhand combined
- Anodized housing for corrosion protection
- Trailer brakes are released up to 50% faster than with conventional methods
- For use with ABS and NON-ABS brake systems



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Selecting the Right Gladhand to Help Prevent Corrosion

Gladhand Body

Most standard gladhands with aluminum offer no corrosion protection; these gladhands are not suggested for use in highly corrosive environments. Powder coated gladhands are the next step up for anti-corrosion power, offering substantial corrosion protection. Although they offer great protection, over time the coating will chip away, leaving the area exposed to corrosion. The best form of protection against heavily corrosive environments are anodized gladhands. The images to the right show product in the field after several months.



Anodized – Virtually no corrosion on the body



Powder Coated – Corrosion has begun where the coating has chipped

The Connector Plate

As with the gladhand body, there are also several types of connector plates to choose from; gold chromate, cast iron, powder coated steel and stainless steel with powder coating. You will experience the same reaction to corrosion with these as with the body; however there are other things to watch for as well. If the small dimple on the plate wears down, the gladhands will start to lose their ability to seal properly when coupled, allowing air to leak in the system.



Stainless Steel Connector Plate



Powder Coated Steel Connector Plate



Connector Dimple with Wear

The Detent Plate and Rivets

After many cycles, the metal starts to shave off and create grooves. Watch for heavy wear. If the plate becomes loose, it is time to replace the gladhand. You'll find detent plates made of a cold rolled steel with gold chromate or stainless steel. Stainless steel offers better corrosion prevention. Rivets are also important because they are what hold the detent plate to the gladhand body. They are usually made of zinc with a gold chromate finish, although some are manufactured standard with stainless steel. Corroded rivets on the detent plate will cause the plate to loosen and eventually break off, making coupling impossible.



Heavy Abrasion



Corroded detent plate and rivets



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- Use stainless steel connector plates for best anti-corrosive protection.
- Watch for loss of tension when coupling and uncoupling gladhands, this is a sure sign they need to be replaced.
- An important place to watch for corrosion is the interior cavity of the gladhand. If corrosion buildup begins to chip away, it will enter the airline system.