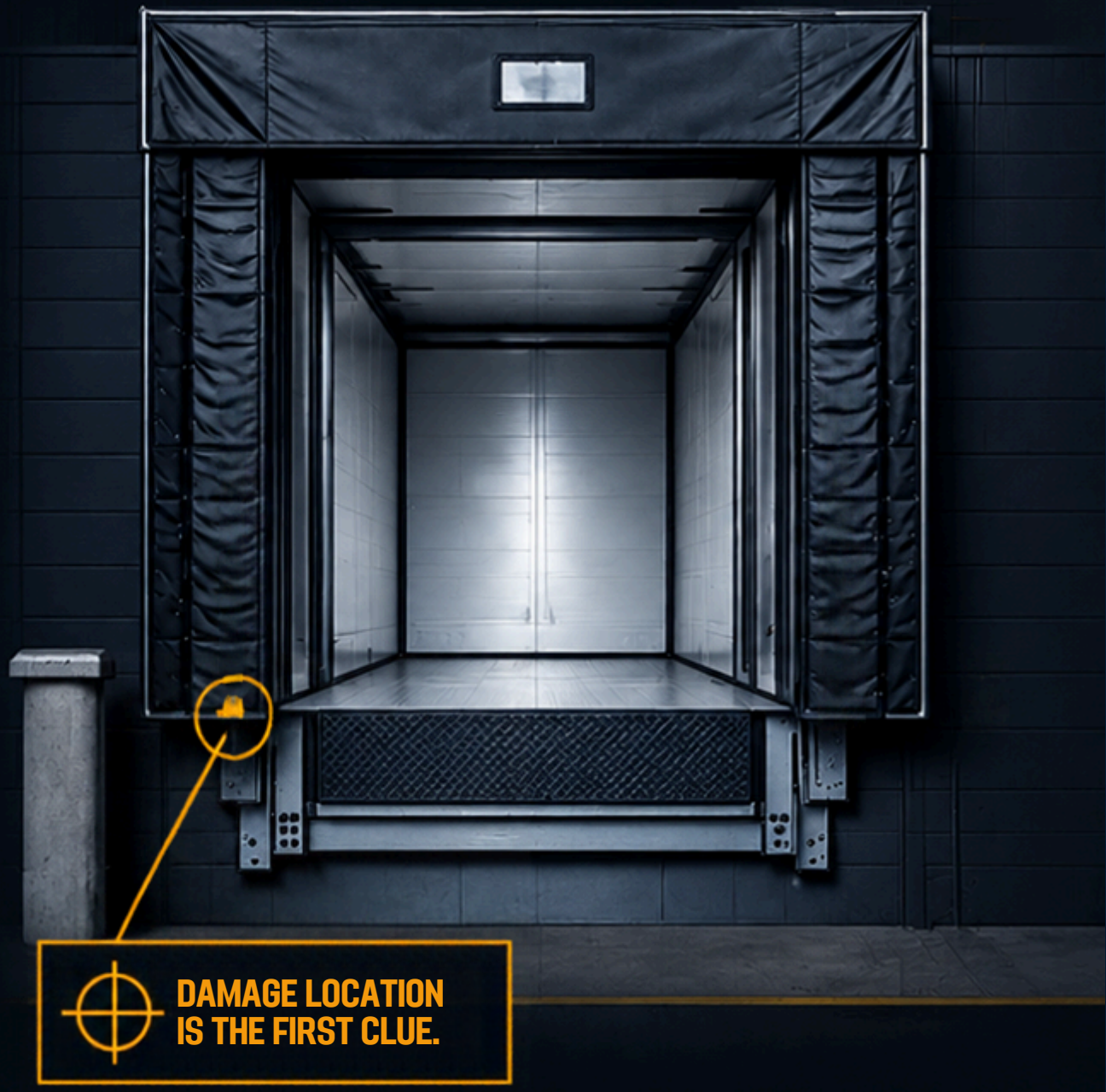
A GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING THE CAUSE OF COLLAPSIBLE DOCK SHELTER DAMAGE

IDENTIFY WHERE THE DAMAGE IS OCCURRING, UNDERSTAND THE LIKELY CAUSE, AND TAKE THE RIGHT CORRECTIVE ACTION.

Collapsible dock shelters are designed to absorb contact from vehicles during normal docking operations. However, recurring damage is often a symptom of operational, vehicle, or site layout issues rather than a fault with the shelter itself. This guide will help you identify the likely cause of damage based on where it is occurring and what corrective actions may be required.



AMEY
Dock & Door Specialists

COLLAPSIBLE DOCK SHELTER DAMAGE

1. DAMAGE TO THE HEAD OF THE DOCK SHELTER

Damage to the top, or head, section is typically one of the easiest faults to diagnose.



COMMON CAUSES

TRAILERS EXCEEDING SHELTER HEIGHT:

The most common Cause is trailers that are taller than the shelter was designed to accommodate. Repeated impact can bend framework, damage, curtains, and reduce the shelter's effectiveness.

SHUNTER TRUCKS LIFTING TRAILERS TOO HIGH:

Where shunter vehicles are used, excessive lifting of the trailer during manœuvring can cause the trailer to strike the shelter head. Additional indicator: Dock bumper damage is often visible at the same location.

VEHICLE SUSPENSION MOVEMENT:

If there is a steep approach into the loading bay, trailers may adjust their suspension height as they dock. This can raise the trailer roof into the shelter head during loading operations.

WHAT TO CHECK

- [x] Measure trailer heights against shelter dimensions.
- [x] Inspect dock bumpers for corresponding impact damage.
- [x] Assess whether vehicles are adjusting suspension height during docking.
- [x] Review the dock approach gradient.



LOOK FOR A MATCHING IMPACT POINT ON THE DOCK BUMPERS.

COLLAPSIBLE DOCK SHELTER DAMAGE





Sideframe damage can result from several operational factors. These issues should be investigated carefully to prevent further damage and ensure safe, reliable dock shelter performance.

CLEARANCE MUST BE CHECKED AGAINST THE VEHICLES ACTUALLY USING THE BAY.

COMMON CAUSES



Swinging Trailer Doors:
Trailer doors can swing into the shelter frame during loading or unloading, particularly where vehicles are docked on uneven ground or sloping approaches.



Shelter Too Narrow for Vehicles:
Refrigerated trailers and certain specialist vehicles are often wider than standard trailers. If the shelter opening does not provide sufficient clearance, repeated contact can deform the side frames.

Recommended Clearance:
A minimum of 250 mm clearance per side between the trailer and shelter frame.



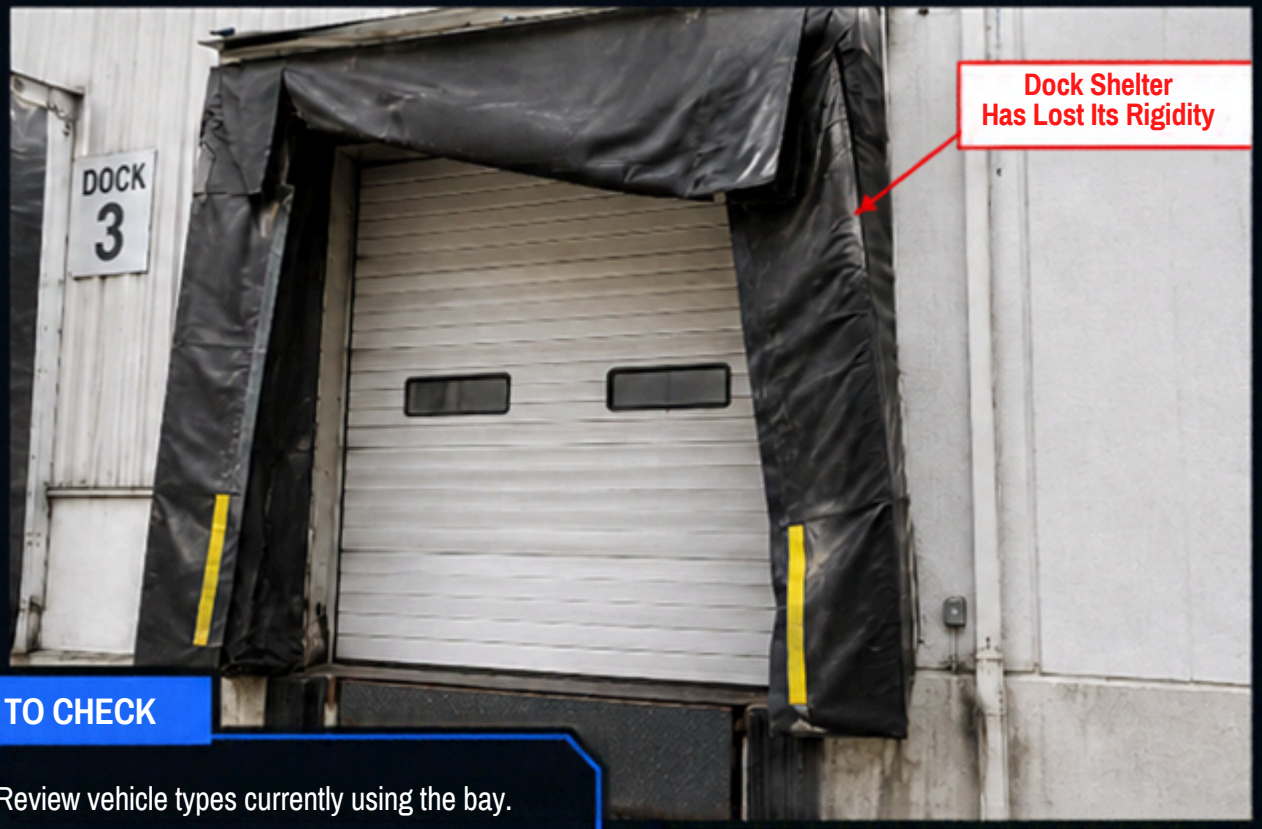
Poor Vehicle Alignment:
Misaligned vehicles are one of the most common causes of sideframe damage. Drivers attempting to correct position during docking can place excessive loads on the shelter structure.

WHAT TO CHECK

- [x] Look for impact marks from trailer doors.
- [x] Measure trailer widths and compare them with shelter dimensions.
- [x] Confirm a minimum 250 mm clearance on both sides.
- [x] Check the positioning and visibility of yard guidance lines.
- [x] Verify whether wheel guides are installed and correctly positioned.

3. DOCK SHELTER HAS LOST ITS RIGIDITY

Over time, collapsible shelters will naturally experience some material fatigue. However, significant sagging or loss of rigidity within a relatively short period usually indicates excessive operational stress.



COMMON CAUSES

Repeated Vehicle Misalignment: Vehicles approaching the bay of centre place uneven loads on the collapsible framework, accelerating wear and causing distortion.

Oversized Vehicles: Vehicles that exceed the shelter's design width or height create excessive stress on the collapsible mechanism. In severe cases, the shelter may fully collapse when the trailer docks.

WHAT TO CHECK

- ☑ Review vehicle types currently using the bay.
- ☑ Verify shelter dimensions against actual vehicle dimensions.
- ☑ Examine yard layout and docking practices.
- ☑ Check for evidence of repeated off-centre impacts.

Sagging soon after installation usually points to excessive operational stress, not ordinary material fatigue.

SITE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

When investigating dock shelter damage,
always look for physical evidence and operational clues.

1 INSPECT FOR WITNESS MARKS

Witness marks provide valuable information about where trailer contact is occurring.

- [ ] Is there at least 250 mm clearance between the trailer and shelter frame?
- [ ] Are impact marks concentrated in a particular area?
- [ ] Do damage patterns match the reported vehicle types?

2 REVIEW TRAFFIC GUIDANCE

Check whether the loading bay is equipped with:

- [ ] Dock approach guide lines
- [ ] Wheel guides
- [ ] Adequate bay markings
- [ ] Driver docking instructions

Poor trailer alignment frequently contribute to recurring shelter damage.

3 OBSERVE DOCKING PROCEDURES

- [ ] How are trailers being docked?
- [ ] How are trailers being docked?
- [ ] Are shunter vehicles being used?
- [ ] Are trailers raising or lowering suspension during loading?
- [ ] Are drivers regularly approaching the bay off-centre?



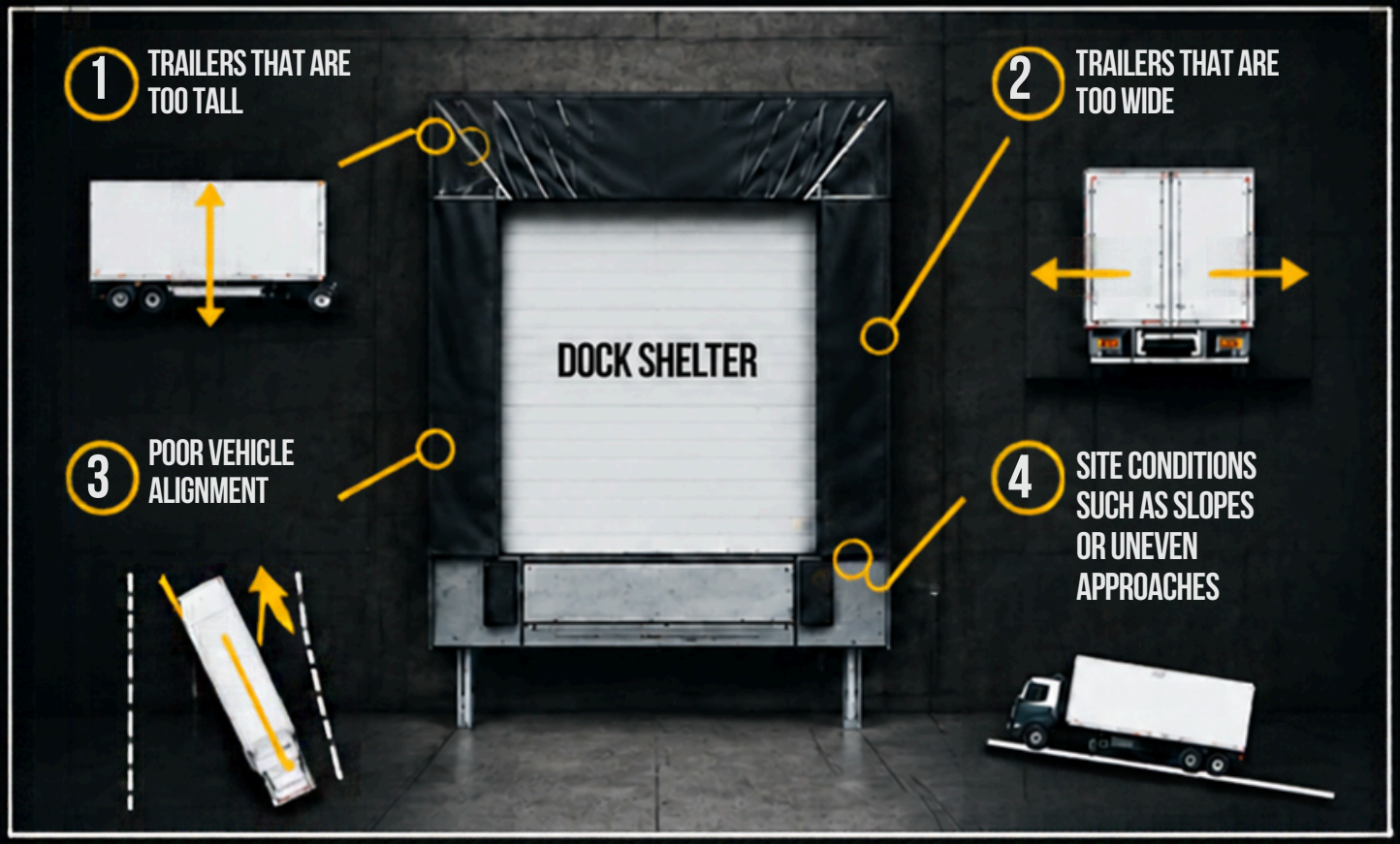
NOTES / OBSERVATIONS

SUMMARY

Most collapsible dock shelter damage can be traced to one of four causes:

1. Trailers that are too tall
2. Trailers that are too wide
3. Poor vehicle alignment
4. Site conditions such as slopes or uneven approaches

Correctly identifying the damage location, reviewing vehicle dimensions, and observing docking behaviour will usually reveal the root cause and help prevent repeat failures, reducing maintenance costs and extending the life of the dock shelter installation.



DOWNLOAD TIP

Consider using this guide alongside a dock shelter inspection sheet so operatives can record witness marks, vehicle details, and bay conditions during site visits. This creates a consistent damage assessment process and helps identify recurring trends across multiple loading bays.

FIND THE CAUSE. | CORRECT THE PROCESS. | PREVENT REPEAT DAMAGE.

"We don’t sell products — we deliver independent, unbiased guidance. We give you the clarity, tools, and direct access to specialists so you can source the right equipment yourself, confidently and without sales pressure."

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