



Top 10 Carousel Features Guide

1. Fiberglass figures

Traditionally carousel horses and figures were hand carved from wood. Over time those wooden figures begin to warp and split due to the unstable nature of wood. Fiberglass figures do not warp or split and have a much harder surface to resist dents. Also, make sure the fiberglass figures are finished with a high-quality clear coat which will provide protection from scuffs and scratches, as well as the sun's harmful UV rays.

2. Electric variable speed drive

Older carousels were previously powered by hydraulic motors which will leak oil and created maintenance headaches for their owners. To prevent such maintenance problems a carousel should be powered by electric AC motors which are much cleaner and easier to maintain while offering a much smoother ride with their variable speed.

3. Greaseless bearings

The overhead crankshaft bearings are not an area where you want to add grease which could then spill onto your patrons. Instead opt for Nylatron® greaseless bearings which require no lubrication and eliminate any potential for oil falling onto your carousel patrons or creating a slip hazard on the floor.

4. Optional LED light bulbs

Your carousel will be lit up continuously day and night. This could amount to a very large monthly electric bill if you use traditional incandescent light bulbs. While LED light bulbs are a larger up-front investment, they use only a fraction of the energy compared to incandescent bulbs and will pay for themselves very quickly. LED lights also have the advantage of lasting several years without burning out.

5. Wide selection of animal figures

Most traditional carousels had only a few types of horses riders could choose from. By adding a variety of animals to your carousel (tigers, panda bears, dolphins, etc.) the number of repeat ridership greatly increases. Children who ride a tiger today will want to ride the carousel again tomorrow so they can ride the shark.



6. Available scenery packages

The scenery panels that line the upper perimeter and inner column of a carousel creates the eye-catching look of carousels. Some venues are better suited for an *Americana* theme, while others are match better with a classic *Victorian* theme. For other venues such as zoo's, a *Safari* theme with bamboo scenery panels and a thatched roof blends in very well with the carousel's environment.

7. Carousel top selections

The type of top you select for your carousel will greatly depend on its location. For example, if the carousel is located outdoors it's best to select a weather resistant pie-top. For indoor locations it could be better to select a more open feeling ribbon top. The different top selections should come in a variety of colors and weather resistant materials to fit the appropriate application.

8. Handicap accessibility

Everyone should be able to partake in the joy that a carousel brings. By offering a stow-away wheelchair ramp and ADA compliant chariot with wheelchair lock-downs, you can ensure that even patrons confined to a wheelchair can enjoy your carousel.

9. Chariot options

Not all riders want or are able to ride on the carousel animals. For those riders seated chariot benches should be available. To fit with the theme of your carousel a diverse selection of chariot styles can create a nice accent for your carousel while appealing to your less mobile patrons. To give wheelchair patrons an equally exciting ride, a moving chariot will create a similar experience to riding on a horse.

10. Safety interlocks

As with any amusement ride, safety must be paramount. Safety features such as an Operator Presence switch will ensure that your carousel can only be operated while an Operator is at the controls. Other features such as an Emergency Stop button should be on the control console to bring the carousel to prompt, controlled stop should your Operators need to stop the carousel.