

PREPARING YOUR CAR FOR TRANSPORT

This 10-step process from Ship A Car will help you to properly prepare your vehicle for transport. Following these guidelines is the best way to protect your car from damage and to ensure a stress-free shipping experience.

1 THOROUGHLY INSPECT YOUR VEHICLE

Start by inspecting the body of your vehicle. You may want to wash the exterior first so that you can accurately assess the vehicle's condition. Walk around the car and make note of its appearance. Pay close attention to any defects, including scratches or dings to the car's paint as well as any dents in the body. Write down any problems you find. Your Ship A Car carrier will conduct a walk-around inspection with you when they pick up your car; the two assessments of the present condition should match.

When the car arrives at your destination, the carrier will conduct another inspection. You or someone you trust should be present to verify the vehicle's condition and to record any changes from the initial inspection. During transportation, your car may be exposed to road debris, snow, rain, dust or other natural elements, and some minor effects may occur; this is normal. Upon completion of the inspection, you or your representative will be asked to sign a bill of lading to finalize the inspection.

2 REMOVE CUSTOM AND AFTER-MARKET PRODUCTS

Shipping companies don't often cover the interior of your car or its contents. They generally limit inspections to the vehicle's exterior, yet items left in the car could shift around and cause damage, and they could also add to the shipping weight. For these reasons, it's wise to remove custom stereos, after-market video and DVD systems, GPS systems and any detachable equipment for separate shipping. You should also remove all personal items from the car, making sure to check the trunk and all latched compartments, as the transporter's insurance won't cover your personal belongings.

3 MAKE SURE THE CAR IS IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION

Prior to shipping, perform a maintenance inspection on the car to check for mechanical problems and to ensure safe transportation.

Although the car will be driven only minimally during shipment, it should be in good working condition; cars with mechanical issues can cause unforeseen delays and damages. A standard vehicle checkup should be adequate.

Document any known mechanical issues. Make sure the battery is fully charged and that the tires are properly inflated. Fill all fluids, but leave the gas tank only one-eighth to one-quarter full. Each gallon of gas weighs over six pounds, and keeping the tank mostly empty will save weight and make shipping easier. List any instructions needed to drive your car on and off the transport trailer, including any problems with starting or stopping, and give these instructions to the transport coordinator when setting up the shipment.

4 REMOVE TOLL TAGS AND PARKING PERMITS

Deactivating or removing toll tags and parking permits before shipment will save unexpected trouble. Toll tags might be charged at each toll station along the route, which could add up to a significant and unnecessary expense, and valuable parking passes could be targeted for theft.

5 PHOTOGRAPH THE CAR

After you've thoroughly inspected the car and ensured its good working condition, photograph different views for documentation. Date and label each photo for your records.

6 DON'T PACK YOUR CAR

It may be tempting to pack personal belongings in your car for transport, but this creates a huge risk. Beyond the weight and damage issues previously noted, transport companies typically leave vehicles unlocked due to numerous inspections and the need to load and unload them during the move. This raises the possibility of theft. Additionally, transport companies aren't licensed to transfer goods; doing so could result in penalties. Another concern involves the potential for packed items to exit the vehicle and cause damage to the transport truck or to another vehicle.

Should that happen, you would be held liable. The risks involved in packing belongings in your car aren't worth the trouble. Ensure their safe arrival at your destination by shipping them separately.

7 CONTACT DRIVER

Speak with the driver to arrange specific pickup and delivery times. You want to make sure your schedules line up. If you are not available for pick up the driver may leave and you can lose your spot on the truck. If you are not available on delivery they may put your vehicle in storage and charge additional fees.

8 PREPARE FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING

A little preparation will help protect your car from damage during loading and unloading. If you have a convertible, you should thoroughly secure the top to help avoid damage from wind, debris or moisture. Wherever possible, fold back exterior mirrors and retract the antenna. You should also secure or remove other special items, such as fog lights, ground effects or spoilers.

9 DISABLE THE CAR ALARM

Turn off or disable your car alarm to prevent possible activation. If you can't disable it, write down detailed instructions for the driver regarding how to turn off the alarm if it is accidentally triggered.

10 UPON DELIVERY

When your vehicle reaches its destination, there are a few final steps to take to verify the safe arrival. As previously mentioned, inspect the vehicle. Use the condition report the carrier gave you at the pick-up point and go over each detail. If there are any discrepancies or new problems, note them on the report that documents the arrival condition. Be sure to have the driver sign the arrival report. These steps are essential in protecting your rights. Once you have accepted the car and signed the documentation, the paperwork is all that protects you.

SCHEDULING PICKUP AND DELIVERY

Scheduling your auto shipment at least four weeks prior to your move gives you enough time to arrange the details and take care of any problems that may arise. Ideally, you should be present to transfer the vehicle to the carrier. If this isn't possible, designate someone you trust thoroughly.

You can arrange specific delivery dates with your carrier. If neither you nor anyone you know can be present to receive the car upon delivery, arrange to have it stored in a secure facility until you can claim it. This is less than ideal, of course, as no one will perform the delivery inspection on your behalf.

You'll also be responsible for the storage charges. Ship A Car can also store your vehicle at a terminal for an additional charge.

Your car is precious and well worth the investment of time it takes to choose the best auto transportation service for your needs.

Call Us Now Free Live Quote
1-888-372-0995

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