

Car Shipping Guide - How to Prepare Your Car for Transport

One of the most common questions customers ask after booking is, “How do I prepare my car for transport?” Preparing your car doesn’t require much time or money, but skipping key steps can lead to delays, extra costs, or damage. This guide outlines everything you need to do for a safe, smooth, damage-free, and on-time auto transport.

1. Clean Your Vehicle

Before inspection, wash your vehicle thoroughly. A clean car ensures that any existing scratches, dents, or damage can be documented accurately. This helps protect you and the carrier. Don’t forget the interior—vacuum, wipe down surfaces, clean carpets, and remove clutter.

2. Remove All Personal Items

Do not leave personal items, electronics, toll tags, parking passes, or household goods inside the car. These items are not covered by insurance and may be removed during DOT inspections. Empty your trunk and glove compartment as well.

3. Document the Vehicle’s Condition

Take high-quality, time-stamped photos of your vehicle from all angles. Be present at both pickup and delivery for the inspection and signing of the Bill of Lading. Mark any discrepancies immediately on the document before signing off.

4. Prepare the Vehicle Mechanically

Ensure your battery is fully charged and securely mounted. Check for leaks and fix them. Top off fluids including coolant, antifreeze, and transmission oil. Tire pressure should be optimal, and the fuel tank should be between 1/8 and 1/2 full.

5. Remove Accessories and Modifications

Remove or secure any loose exterior parts like bike racks, spoilers, antennas, grill covers, or spare tire covers. Retract antennas and fold mirrors. Make sure spoilers or low-hanging parts won’t interfere with loading/unloading.



6. Alarm and Key Handoff

Disable or disconnect any alarm systems before shipping. Provide one set of all working keys (including remotes) to the driver. Keep a backup set with you just in case.

7. Ensure Proper Pickup and Delivery Access

Both pickup and delivery locations must be accessible to large tractor-trailers. If not, you'll arrange a nearby meeting spot like a parking lot. Have someone available between 8 AM and 8 PM at both locations.

8. Communication and Contact Info

Ensure that you or your designated contact can be reached by phone Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 6 PM. Cell phones are preferred. Avoid using voicemail or pagers as primary contact methods.

9. Consider Climate & Legal Regulations

Make sure your vehicle is weather-ready for the transport route. Unlimited Auto Trans LLC is not liable for damage caused by weather or nature. Never include plants or hazardous materials—these are strictly forbidden by law.

Set Sail with a Ship-Shape Car!

Your vehicle is now ready for a safe and efficient journey! Following these steps ensures peace of mind and helps avoid unexpected issues. If you have questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact our team.

Need Help? Contact Unlimited Auto Trans LLC:

Phone: (888) 278-9855

Website: www.unlimitedautotrans.com