

# **Car Shipping & Relocation Advice**

*A Free e-Book, brought to you by: **National** Transport, LLC*



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## 5 Tips For a Successful Move

**Research-** Once you know for sure that you are going to need to relocate to a new area, don't hesitate to start doing some serious research. Whether you are relocating for a new job, change of scenery or some other personal reason, the best preparation begins with research. Local libraries are a great place to start as they will more than likely have a plethora of information pertaining to your final destination. Additionally, don't be afraid to approach colleagues, family members, or friends for other helpful advice.



**Packing-** Depending on where you are moving (i.e. nationally versus internationally), your packing will vary. Regardless, try to limit the amount of items that you have to personally lug around. Instead, hire professional movers to pack all of your household belongings. If you are using an [auto transport company](#), often an auto transport company will be able to recommend trusted moving companies to help you in this regard. If you are having your vehicle shipped with a car shipping company, [DO NOT pack your vehicle\(s\) full of personal items](#). Numerous car shipping companies will charge their customers extra to transport vehicles based on additional weight.

**Insurance-** While most trusted auto shipping companies are covered under some kind of [auto insurance](#), it is still highly recommended that you purchase additional insurance. This is especially true if you are relocating or taking an extended vacation internationally. Modern technology is not perfect and when your items (or even your vehicles) are transported, even the smoothest ride may result in some minor damage.

**Moving By Car-** If you are traveling via your personal vehicle, you may want to make sure that your car is serviced well in advance. Little things such as an oil change as well as checking fluids and tire pressure can really go a long way in preventing unnecessary car troubles in an unfamiliar area.

While you may be tempted to pack your vehicle to the point where you can barely see out of the windows, don't. Not only would this be a safety hazard to you and those around you, but it would draw unwanted attention from criminals who may see your car as a new target. If you must travel with all of your belongings, make sure that everything is covered in some way so that curious bystanders won't know what is in your vehicle.

**Hiring a Moving Company-** If you have chosen to use a moving company during the course of your relocation, know your rights as a customer. Moving companies are required to give you a pamphlet entitled *Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move*. This booklet will provide the pertinent information needed in order to understand the documentation that the mover will have you sign.

Prior to allowing a moving company to drive away with your personal belongings, verify the mover's USDOT number as well as their [FMCSA licensure](#). You can determine whether or not a mover is registered with the FMCSA by calling FMCSA at (202) 366-9805.

## *Auto Transport 101: Common Questions & Concerns For First-Time Customers*

### ***How long does it take to ship my vehicle?***

Registering your vehicle(s) for [auto transport](#) with **National** Transport, LLC is incredibly easy and only takes a couple of minutes. Once your vehicle is registered and the pickup date is scheduled, it typically takes anywhere between 1-3 business days to pick up your vehicle for auto transport.



### ***How far in advance do I need to pay for my vehicle?***

Obviously, the more advance notice that you give a car shipping company, the better chance there will be to have your vehicle picked up and delivered within the time frame you specify. While you do not have to pay for the full cost of car shipping up front, at **National** Transport, LLC, we do require some form of payment prior to scheduling your pickup date. We have a numerous payment options, including all major credit cards to make your life easier.

### ***Can I pack personal belongings in my vehicle?***

As one of the nation's leading [car carriers](#), we at **National** Transport, LLC do NOT advise our customers to leave personal items in their vehicle. Car shipping companies are not licensed to carry personal belongings of their customers such as household goods or other personal items because they are not covered in the car carrier's insurance.

While we pride ourselves in providing our customers with only the best in [safe and reliable auto shipping](#), vehicles may shift during auto transport, which may cause personal items or belongings to break or become damaged. Additionally, leaving personal belongings in your vehicle may add weight and/or cause unnecessary damage to your vehicle's suspension or exhaust system.

### ***Is my vehicle insured while it is being transported?***

Yes. As a proud member of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Licensing and Insurance System, **National** Transport, LLC can say with confidence that we have our customers' best interests at heart. We also have a proven safety record that is hard to beat.

All of our car carriers are insured, and being part of the FMCSA's Licensing and Insurance System means being a part of a system of checks and balances, all of which are in place to ensure that we get your vehicle where it needs to be in the safest way possible.

### ***How much gasoline should be left in my car?***

While the car shipping process does not necessitate "driving" your car all over the place, you should still plan to leave at least a quarter of a tank of gasoline in your vehicle so that our car carriers will be able to drive your vehicle on and off the car carrier for both pickup and delivery.

## 5 Warning Signs When Choosing a Car Carrier

When you are preparing to use an auto shipping company, you want to make sure that you are not only getting the best 'bang for your buck,' but you also want to make sure that you are choosing a car transport service that will be able to trust to pick up and deliver your vehicle in the safest, most efficient manner possible.



At **National** Transport, LLC, we have built a solid foundation based on affordable, reliable and most importantly, [SAFE auto transport](#) for our customers. That said, the following are some common warning signs to look out for when conducting your search for a trusted car shipping service:

1. **Extremely low rates.** Our auto shipping rates are comparable to others out there and in addition, we offer outstanding service and quality delivery of your vehicle. For a car carrier promising lower than usual rates, you may be losing out in something else like service. If the car hauler rates are unusually low, ask why.
2. **Extremely short delivery times.** Be mindful of [how long it should take for your car to be delivered](#) versus then think about how realistic their delivery time is. If they truly promise this as an actual delivery time then you have to consider what methods they're using to get your vehicle there so fast and whether or not they're even safe.
3. **Terminal Service:** Bad Idea. It may take weeks to get your car moved. Additionally it's never convenient to pick up you car as terminals are usually out of the way.
4. **Pick up without a contract.** While a verbal contract over the phone may seem okay, you run the risk of them picking up a slew of cars and taking off with your car, leaving you in the dust. **National** Transport, LLC's auto shipping process mandates a contract. Without a contract, that company could choose to pick up just enough cars to fill a few departing trucks, legally leaving you behind.
5. **"We're totally and fully insured for auto shipping."** Don't ever take this as fact and never take anyone's word for this. Always obtain a written contract, and carefully read the terms and conditions. Not at long time in business --- As an auto shipper who has been in the car carrying business a long time and having built up a reputation as a reliable affordable car hauler, **National** Transport LLC can offer you the experience and knowledge that comes with age. This is not something you will have the benefit of when working with a new, less experienced car hauler.

## Key Advice for Buying a Car Online

- 1. Know what you you can afford versus what you want.** It is easy to fall in love with a car that is way out of your price range. Before you get in over your head, take a hard look at your financial situation. Keep in mind that the cost of owning a vehicle goes well beyond the sticker price when it comes to general maintenance, state taxes and other miscellaneous fees.
- 2. Research, Research, Research.** Never assume that going through a dealership is better. Purchasing a vehicle is a fairly serious financial endeavor no matter whether you are going down to the dealership in person or making your purchase over the Internet. But before you hand anyone your banking information, we advise that you do your research ahead of time. Resources such as Edmunds.com can help you establish the true market value (or TMV) of a vehicle, this way you know what to expect when you shop around for different quotes from auto dealers.
- 3. Narrow your search.** There are hundreds upon thousands of vehicles for sale online. Once you've established your financial situation as well as knowing what kind of vehicle is right for you, visit any one of the more reputable automotive sellers online such as eBay or Auto Trader. You can even go to a car manufacturer's website. Knowing the kind of car that you are looking for will also make it easy to search for the make/model.
- 4. Check the feedback.** Don't be afraid to see what other people are saying about the seller of a particular vehicle. Thoroughly read through the auction description and request additional photos of the car via e-mail if necessary. You want to establish a rapport with the seller and build trust so that you don't get taken advantage of.
- 5. Use your resources.** Once you have found a car online that you like, contact a mechanic in the city where that particular vehicle is being sold, and arrange for an inspection once you arrive. eBay offers inspection services in at least 50 major metro markets as well as a free limited warranty for the drive home for numerous vehicle models. It will also be worth your while to purchase a Carfax report. Even if the owner claims to have one, it is still better to get an official copy on your own as many people have falsified these types of documents before.
- 6. Factor in total delivery costs.** Obviously, many people who purchase vehicles online will wind up having to pick up the vehicle themselves or have the vehicle shipped by way of a [trusted car shipping company](#). If you opt to pick up the vehicle yourself, don't forget to factor in the cost of: gas, hotels, food, plane tickets and other miscellaneous expenses that may arise.
- 7. Pay for your vehicle.** When it comes down to [paying for your vehicle](#), cash is the universal language most often spoken among those who are wishing to sell. Keep this in mind as most interstate, online transactions are cash sales. When making payments, try to use a credit card on a secured browser if at all possible. This way, if you don't get what you were promised, you can go through your credit card company to get the money back versus a check, money order or wire transfer which will be irretrievable. Another safe option for payment is PayPal as well as eBay's Vehicle PURchase Protection program.



## *Things to Keep In Mind When Relocating For a Job*

Job relocation can be an exciting time in your life as it often presents individuals with the opportunity to do more interesting work. If your company is offering you a relocation package, there are a few things to consider. For starters, if you are in a committed relationship with someone else, how will this new job affect it? Would your spouse be willing to make the move? Also, if you have children, you will have to consider uprooting them from their current school in order to move. The following are some things to keep in mind before, during and after you relocate for a new job.

### *Before You Relocate:*

#### **Research your destination.**

As soon as you find out about the job relocation, you may want to start conducting your own research on the community that you are planning on potentially moving to. Is the neighborhood safe for you and your family? What sorts of things is there to do in the surrounding area? This will also be a good time to determine how your salary will play out in your new home as it may or may not affect your quality of life. Will your company be paying for all of the relocation expenses? If so, what does this include? What are you responsible for? There are plenty of resources on the Internet to aide those who are relocating for jobs such as: RENTNET, Homefair.com and the Worldwide ERC to name a few.

#### **Prioritize your possessions.**

After you've determined that job relocation is something you would like to do, consider prioritizing your possessions. Enlist the help of friends and/or family members to help you expedite this process so that you don't feel as overwhelmed.

While you are going through your personal items, consider throwing away or donating those personal possessions that you will not make use of at your new home. Remember that the less you have to bring with you, the less it will cost you overall. Arrange to have a garage sale or ask a local charity such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army to pick up items you wish to donate. You may also want to consult with an accountant in order to determine which of your belongings may be tax deductible.

#### **Create an inventory sheet.**

Create an inventory sheet as you pack to help you keep track of certain items. Label boxes according to a system that you come up with so that you will know exactly where these items are. You may also want to take photos or video of more expensive items in the event that something happens during the moving process and items are lost or damaged. You may want to ship valuable items by way of Certified Mail or Federal Express. *(Continued on page 7)*



## Things to Keep In Mind When Relocating For a Job

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### **Choose a home mover and a car shipping company.**

At **National** Transport, LLC, [we have numerous customers](#) who seek our help when it comes to [relocating for business](#) or otherwise. We can also offer you the names of several reputable movers who may be able to assist you beyond your auto transport needs. Keep in mind that the earlier you reserve your auto shipping service as well as your home movers, the less stressed you'll feel!

Confirm with your home moving company as well as the [car shipping company](#) any items that cannot be transported, such as: firearms, flammable items, or live animals, etc. Confirm your arrangements in advance, and make sure that you have a copy of your agreement or contract stored in a safe place where you will remember it on moving day.

### **Plan ahead & network in advance.**

Make as many of your [travel arrangements](#) in advance (i.e. Hotel reservations, flights, car rental, etc.). This is also a good time to inquire about: local utility companies, banking, storage facilities, places of worship, doctors, dentists and pharmacies, etc., Internet service providers and other services that you may need for your new home.

If you already have a new job lined up at your final destination, you may want to set up impromptu business meetings with new colleagues to help you get to know one another better. If you're relocating for an office job, it also doesn't hurt to familiarize yourself with the area by using a map to help you figure out how to get to work versus waiting until you arrive.

*Moving Day:*

### **Pack your survival kit.**

On moving day, your survival kit can include items such as: paper towels, a broom, medications, the auto transport contract between you and your car shipping company, the contract between you and your home movers, your inventory sheet, toilet paper and personal affects, tools to hang pictures and/or assemble furniture and any other important financial documentation.

### **Keep a separate carpenter's kit.**

Upon arriving at their new home, most people are anxious to unpack and start settling in. Therefore, you may want to pack a separate 'carpenter's kit' that includes items such as: tape, pens, tape measures, a packing knife, hammer and nails and more. It can be reassuring to have these sorts of items handy when you're trying to unpack so that you don't have to search through boxes to find them! *(Continued on page 8)*



## *Things to Keep In Mind When Relocating For a Job*

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*After You've Relocated:*

### **Unpack boxes one at a time.**

One of the keys to not becoming overwhelmed is to take things one at a time. This holds true even [after you've relocated](#). Instead of trying to open all of your moving boxes and supplies, use your inventory sheet to help you pick which boxes should get priority for unpacking.

Stay organized and have a system in place so that you can relegate duties to those who are there to help you. So, for instance, you might have one person opening one box themselves and putting the items in a designated space around your new residence. This can greatly cut down on the amount of stress and time that it takes to get settle into your new home.