

When you need to ship your vehicle, whether across town or [Lakewood Auto Transport's](#) across the country, choosing a reliable car shipping service is critical. In Lakewood, there are many car shipping companies to choose from, each offering different levels of service, pricing, and reliability. But how [Lakewood car transportation services](#) do you know which one is best for your needs? In this article, we'll guide you through the factors you need to consider to choose the best car shipping service in Lakewood, ensuring that your vehicle arrives at its destination safely and on time.

1. Types of Car Shipping Services

The first step in choosing a reliable Lakewood car shipper is understanding the different types of shipping services available. Below are the most common types of vehicle transport options:

- **Open-Air Transport:** This is the most popular and economical option. Your car is transported on an open carrier along with other vehicles. While this option is budget-friendly, your vehicle is exposed to the elements during transit.
- **Enclosed Transport:** If you are shipping a luxury, classic, or high-value vehicle, enclosed transport is the best option. This service provides protection from weather, road debris, and other external factors that could damage your car during transport.
- **Door-to-Door Service:** This service involves picking up and delivering your vehicle directly from and to your location, making it convenient and hassle-free. However, it may cost a bit more than terminal-to-terminal service.
- **Terminal-to-Terminal Service:** This service involves delivering and picking up your vehicle at specific terminals. While this option can be less expensive, it is less convenient as you'll need to travel to and from the terminal.

2. Researching Car Shipping Companies in Lakewood

Once you've decided on the type of service you need, the next step is to research car shipping companies in Lakewood. Here's how to evaluate potential providers:

- **Check Reviews and Ratings:** Look for online reviews on trusted websites, such as Google Reviews or the Better Business Bureau (BBB). These reviews can give you insights into the company's reputation, reliability, and customer service.
- **Ask for Recommendations:** Ask friends, family, or colleagues who have used car shipping services for their recommendations. Word-of-mouth recommendations are often the most reliable.
- **Verify Credentials:** Make sure the company is licensed and insured. A reputable car shipping company should be registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and carry proper insurance to protect your vehicle during transit.
- **Get Multiple Quotes:** It's important to get quotes from several companies to compare prices and services. Keep in mind that the cheapest option may not always be the best. Look for a balance of affordability and reliability.

3. Ask the Right Questions

Before you commit to a car shipping company in Lakewood, make sure you ask the right questions to ensure you're choosing the best option for your needs. Some important questions to ask include:



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- **What is your delivery time frame?** Understanding how long it will take for your vehicle to be delivered is important for planning purposes. Some companies offer expedited services for faster delivery.
- **Do you provide insurance coverage?** Ask about the level of insurance coverage they offer for your vehicle during transit. Ensure that the coverage is sufficient to protect your vehicle in case of damage.
- **What is your cancellation policy?** Sometimes plans change, so it's important to know what the company's cancellation policy is and if you'll be able to receive a refund if needed.
- **What's included in the price?** Make sure to get clarification on what's included in the quoted price. Some companies may charge additional fees for services like fuel surcharges, insurance, or delivery delays.

4. Inspect Your Vehicle Before Shipping

Before your vehicle is picked up for transport, it's essential to do a thorough inspection. This will help you document any existing damages and avoid disputes later. Here's what you should do:

- **Take Photos:** Take clear, detailed photos of your vehicle from all angles, including close-ups of any existing dents, scratches, or other damages.
- **Record the Vehicle's Condition:** Write down a detailed description of your vehicle's current condition, including the mileage, any scratches, or dents.
- **Remove Personal Items:** It's important to remove all personal belongings from the vehicle before shipping. This is for your safety and also to avoid any potential theft.

5. Understanding the Cost of Car Shipping

The cost of shipping a car can vary based on several factors, including the type of transport, distance, and size of the vehicle. Here are a few key factors that affect the price:

- **Distance:** Longer distances typically cost more to ship, as more fuel and resources are required to transport the vehicle.
- **Vehicle Size and Weight:** Larger vehicles such as SUVs and trucks usually cost more to ship because they take up more space on the carrier.
- **Transport Type:** As mentioned earlier, open-air transport is typically cheaper than enclosed transport.

- **Timing:** If you need expedited shipping or need to ship during peak times, such as summer, the cost may be higher.

6. Final Preparations for Shipping

Once you've selected a reliable Lakewood car shipping company and scheduled your transport, there are a few final preparations you should make:

- **Empty Your Gas Tank:** Most car shipping companies request that your gas tank is no more than a quarter full to reduce the weight of the vehicle.
- **Disable Alarms:** Make sure to disable any vehicle alarms to avoid unnecessary disruptions during transport.
- **Provide Documentation:** Have all necessary documents, including your vehicle title, registration, and insurance, ready for the shipping company.

Conclusion

Choosing the best car shipping service in Lakewood doesn't have to be a daunting task. By researching reputable companies, understanding the different types of services available, asking the right questions, and making necessary preparations, you can ensure that your vehicle is transported safely and reliably. Keep these tips in mind to find a service that meets your needs and gives you peace of mind during the shipping process. Whether you're shipping a luxury car or a family vehicle, the right car shipping company will ensure your car arrives safely and on time.

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