



6-STEP ROADMAP

To Shipping a Car
Across the Country



YOUR 6-STEP ROADMAP To Shipping a Car Across the Country

1. Research Auto Transport Companies Thoroughly

- ☐ Look for FMCSA and USDOT registration, valid insurance, & transparent licensing.
- ☐ Ask for their Motor Carrier number and verify it on the FMCSA website to ensure they're properly licensed.
- ☐ Check independent reviews to explore positive customer feedback.
- ☐ Ask about specialized auto shipping services like enclosed carriers or winter route expertise, if necessary.

2. Get Multiple Quotes to Compare Pricing & Services

- ☐ Use a quote comparison tool, or contact at least 3 transporters, to evaluate pricing trends for your route.
- ☐ Share accurate pickup & delivery ZIP codes, vehicle year/make/model, and whether it's operable.
- ☐ Consider factors like open vs. enclosed, terminal vs. door-to-door, and peak-season surcharges.
- ☐ Be cautious of bait-and-switch tactics; insist on itemized quotes and confirm total price upfront.

3. Prepare Your Vehicle for Transport

- ☐ Thoroughly clean your vehicle, both inside & outside, before handing it over for long-haul auto transport.
- ☐ Take pictures of your vehicle's current condition to have a record in case of any damage during transport.
- ☐ Remove any personal belongings, loose items, or valuables from the car.
- ☐ Disable alarms and secure loose parts to avoid triggering alarms during transport.
- ☐ Ensure the fuel level is no more than a quarter tank.
- ☐ Check tire pressure, battery charge, and brake condition to facilitate safe loading.

4. Complete All Necessary Paperwork

- ☐ Complete the Bill of Lading with accurate condition descriptions; use photos to cross-check upon delivery.
- ☐ Review terms closely: coverages, cancellation policies, potential deductibles, etc.
- ☐ Ask any & all questions you may have before signing the agreement.
- ☐ Keep copies of vehicle registration and insurance handy, along with any special permits.

5. Coordinate Pickup and Delivery

- ☐ Schedule pickup and delivery windows.
- ☐ Confirm exact addresses, arrangements for key handoff, and driver contact details.
- ☐ Use available real-time tracking tools to monitor shipment progress.
- ☐ Be flexible, as weather, traffic, and demand can shift schedules.

6. Inspect Your Vehicle Upon Delivery

- ☐ Conduct a joint inspection using your pre-ship photos.
- ☐ Complete the delivery portion of the BOL carefully, noting any new damage.
- ☐ If damage is found, photograph it, document details, get insurance info, and file a claim within 24 hours.



TO ENSURE A SMOOTH EXPERIENCE, REMEMBER:

- 1. Book 2-4 weeks ahead** to secure the best rates and carrier availability.
- 2. Choose the right carrier type.**
 - Open transport is economical.
 - Enclosed is safer for luxury & classic cars.
- 3. Verify insurance coverage.**
 - Ensure limits cover full vehicle value.
 - Consider top-up if needed.
- 4. Track shipment** to reduce your anxiety by identifying delays in real-time.
- 5. Stay reachable** to prevent delays.
- 6.** If the carrier doesn't offer digital tracking, **ask for the driver's direct contact** to stay updated.
- 7. Follow off-peak timing.**
 - Avoid high summer or holiday surcharges.
 - Ensure space availability.



SHIP YOUR VEHICLE FROM COAST TO COAST WITH CONFIDENCE



At Lee Bowe Company, we combine professionalism, reliability, and personalized service to take the guesswork out of vehicle shipping. For a free, no-obligation quote, [**Contact our auto transport company right away.**](#)