

Comprehensive Vehicle Preparation Guide

Essential pre-transport checklist for standard automobiles, boats, trailers, oversized cargo, and specialty vehicles. Following this guide ensures a smooth, safe, and on-time shipment.

1. STANDARD PASSENGER VEHICLES (SEDANS, SUVs, LIGHT TRUCKS)

Cleanliness & Inspection Preparation

- ✓ **Wash Exterior:** Clean thoroughly before driver arrival so pre-existing scratches, dents, or paint chips are clearly visible during pickup inspection.
- ✓ **Document Pre-Existing Condition:** Take high-resolution, time-stamped photos from all angles (including roof, bumper undersides, and wheels).
- ✓ **Remove Personal Belongings:** Remove all loose personal items. Transport insurance covers the vehicle only, not loose cargo in passenger cabins.

Mechanical & System Setup

- ✓ **Fuel Level at 1/4 Tank:** Keep gas between 1/8 and 1/4 full. This ensures sufficient fuel for loading/unloading while keeping trailer weight minimized.
- ✓ **Deactivate Alarms & Toll Tags:** Disable security systems or provide disable instructions. Remove or shield E-ZPass/SunPass transponders to prevent phantom toll charges.
- ✓ **Check Leaks & Battery:** Ensure the battery is fully charged and secure. Report any fluid leaks to the dispatcher prior to pickup.

PRO TIP FOR LOW-CLEARANCE & MODIFIED VEHICLES

If your vehicle has custom body kits, lowered suspension, or aftermarket spoilers, notify Allstates Auto Shipping in advance. Ramps may require special placement or an enclosed carrier with hydraulic lift gates.

2. BOATS, WATERCRAFT & MARINE TRAILERS

Hull, Cabin & Loose Gear Security

- ✓ **Remove / Stow Loose Accessories:** Store bimini tops, canvas covers, cushions, fishing gear, and electronics inside cabin or tow vehicle.
- ✓ **Latch Hatches & Doors:** Lock all cabin doors, windows, and storage hatches. Tape or secure windshields if latching is worn.
- ✓ **Drain All Fluids:** Empty water tanks, livewells, bilges, and fuel tanks as far as safely possible to reduce total weight and prevent spills.

Dimensional & Trailer Readiness

- ✓ **Measure Total Height & Width:** Confirm exact height from ground to highest fixed point (radar arches, antennas, or mast setup) for permit compliance.
- ✓ **Check Trailer Mechanics:** Verify trailer tire pressure, lug nuts, brake lights, signal wiring, and wheel bearing lubrication.
- ✓ **Secure Outboards & Stern Drives:** Lock motor in the full-up or full-down transport position with motor support brackets engaged.

3. OVERSIZED VEHICLES, TRAILERS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Specialized Heavy Equipment & Wide-Load Prep

- ✓ **Accurate Dimension Verification:** Double-check total length, overall width (including side mirrors/tracks), and height. Precise measurements prevent transit delays or permit rejections.

✓ **Secure Moving Components:** Lock down excavator arms, crane booms, dozer blades, or bucket attachments. Engage all mechanical travel locks and safety pins.
- ✓ **Disconnect Power & Auxiliary Lines:** Disconnect batteries if required and secure loose hydraulic hoses, exhaust caps, and cab doors.

✓ **Weight Distribution & Loading Area:** Ensure pickup and delivery locations have clear overhead clearance (no low branches/wires) and stable, level ground for heavy ramps.

⚠ IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE FOR OVERSIZED TRANSPORT
State Regulations require strict adherence to permit routes and escort vehicle protocols. Any discrepancy between declared dimensions/weight and actual cargo size can result in heavy state fines and transport suspension. Always verify exact specs with AAS beforehand.

4. MOTORCYCLES, ATVS & CLASSIC / EXOTIC CARS

Motorcycles & Powersports

- ✓ **Neutral Gear & Fuel Valve:** Place motorcycle in neutral, turn fuel petcock to OFF position, and check tire inflation.
- ✓ **Remove Saddlebags & Accessories:** Remove loose saddlebags, tall windshields, or custom flags unless securely bolted.
- ✓ **Unlock Steering Locks:** Leave steering unlocked so loader can position the bike onto specialized pallets or wheel chocks.

Classic, Exotic & Vintage Cars

- ✓ **Enclosed Transport Recommended:** Protect delicate custom paint, chrome, and soft tops from highway debris and weather.
- ✓ **Special Driving Instructions:** Provide written notes for unique starter sequences, choke usage, or manual clutch quirks to driver.
- ✓ **Fluid Leak Check:** Place fresh drip pans under engine/transmission if vintage vehicle tends to weep oil.

5. HANDOVER DAY & BILL OF LADING (BOL) CHECKLIST

Step	Phase	Action Required
1	Joint Pre-Trip Walkaround	Inspect exterior with driver. Note all pre-existing chips, scratches, or dents on the official Bill of Lading (BOL) condition report.
2	Key & Document Exchange	Hand over one complete set of vehicle keys (ignition, trunk, glovebox). Keep duplicate set with yourself. Ensure driver receives gate codes or contact info.
3	Sign Pickup Inspection	Review and sign the pickup BOL. Retain a signed paper or digital copy for your records prior to carrier departure.
4	Destination Inspection	Upon delivery, re-inspect vehicle thoroughly before signing final release. Compare condition directly against the original pickup BOL report.

Have Questions About Preparing Your Shipment?

Our transport specialists at Allstates Auto Shipping are ready to assist you every step of the way.

Call Toll-Free: (855) 313-3171 | Visit Us: <https://aasllcusa.com/>