

AUTO TRANSPORT OR DRIVEAWAY?

THE CHEAT SHEET FOR
PROFESSIONALS



A practical guide for professionals to compare transport vs. driveaway, avoid costly mistakes, and choose the right solution every time.





WHY THIS GUIDE MATTERS

Imagine this: 10 new vans need to cross the country, but delays, traffic, and minor damage throw off your schedule; and your costs start piling up.

For businesses that rely on timely, safe vehicle delivery, every idle hour and scratch adds up in lost productivity, real dollars, and liability. Choosing the wrong transport method can turn a simple delivery into a major headache.

That's why we created this guide. By the end, you'll know:

- When auto transport is the smarter, safer, cost-effective choice
- When driveaway is the fastest, most flexible solution
- How to avoid delays, damage, and unnecessary expenses

Get the insight you need to make confident decisions, streamline operations, and protect your bottom line.



UNDERSTANDING AUTO TRANSPORT

WHAT IS AUTO TRANSPORT?

Auto transport is the professional shipping of vehicles using specialized carriers, trailers, or logistics services. Instead of driving the vehicles yourself or hiring someone to do it, auto transport relies on trained drivers and equipment to move vehicles safely and efficiently over long distances.

Methods of Auto Transport:

- **Open Trailers:** Most common option. Vehicles are exposed to the elements but cost less. Ideal for standard cars, vans, or trucks.
- **Enclosed Trailers:** Fully protected from weather and road debris. Perfect for luxury, classic, or specialty vehicles.
- **Flatbed Options:** Used for oversized or unusual vehicles that don't fit standard trailers.
- **Shipping Logistics:** Professional transporters plan routes, coordinate pick-up and delivery, and handle permits and insurance to ensure vehicles arrive safely.

UNDERSTANDING AUTO TRANSPORT CONT.



PROS OF AUTO TRANSPORT

- Perfect for long distances or multi-vehicle shipments.
- Provides a hands-off solution, you don't need to worry about driving logistics.
- Reduces risk of wear and tear during transit.

CONS OF AUTO TRANSPORT

- Typically higher cost than driveaway services.
- Limited flexibility for exact pick-up or drop-off times.

Example: A dealership needs to move a fleet of 12 service vans to multiple locations across the state. Using a professional auto transport company, the vehicles arrive on schedule, damage-free, and the dealership avoids the operational hassle of sending drivers on the road.

A nighttime photograph taken from the driver's perspective inside a car. The dashboard and rearview mirror are visible in the foreground. The background shows a blurred city street with various colored lights (red, yellow, green, white) from traffic and buildings, creating a bokeh effect.

UNDERSTANDING AUTO DRIVEAWAY

WHAT IS AUTO DRIVEAWAY?

Auto driveaway is a vehicle delivery method where professional drivers transport vehicles by actually driving them from the pick-up location to their destination. Instead of using trailers, the vehicle moves under its own power, providing a flexible and hands-on solution for certain transportation needs.

How It Works:

- A qualified driver is assigned to the vehicle.
- The driver follows a planned route to the delivery location.
- Mileage, fuel, and timing are carefully coordinated to ensure the vehicle arrives safely and on schedule.

UNDERSTANDING AUTO DRIVEAWAY CONT.



PROS OF AUTO DRIVEAWAY

- Cost-effective for single vehicles or smaller shipments.
- Flexible scheduling allows for quicker pick-ups and drop-offs.
- Ideal for specialty vehicles that may not fit standard auto transport trailers.

CONS OF AUTO DRIVEAWAY

- Adds mileage to the vehicle.
- Requires careful coordination with drivers and logistics.
- Less ideal for transporting large fleets over long distances.

Example: A fleet manager needs a specialty utility truck delivered across state lines. ATC Driveaway assigns a professional driver, and the vehicle is safely driven to the new location on time. The manager saves on trailer costs, avoids complex logistics, and the truck is ready for use immediately upon arrival.

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Feature	Auto Transport	Auto Driveaway
Cost	Higher, especially for enclosed or long-distance shipments	Lower for single or specialty vehicles
Speed & Scheduling	Fixed pick-up/drop-off times; less flexible	Flexible scheduling; can often move vehicles faster
Vehicle Safety	Minimal mileage; enclosed trailers protect from weather & road debris	Mileage adds wear; relies on driver skill for safe delivery
Liability & Insurance	Transport company assumes liability; insured for damage in transit	Driver responsibility; insurance coverage still applies
Ideal Use Cases	Long-distance moves, multiple vehicles, dealerships or large fleets	Single vehicles, specialty vehicles, short to mid-range distances, flexible timelines

Fleet size matters

Multiple vehicles? Auto transport is usually easier. One or two specialty vehicles? Driveaway can save time and money.

Distance & timing

Need strict timing for a long-haul? Auto transport may be more reliable. Shorter trips with flexible windows? Driveaway shines.

Vehicle type

High-value or rare vehicles may benefit from enclosed transport. Everyday trucks, vans, and buses can often go via driveaway safely.

Cost vs. convenience

Auto transport is hands-off but more expensive. Driveaway is cost-efficient but requires coordination with drivers.



When it comes to moving vehicles, ATC Driveaway takes the stress off your shoulders. With over 20 years of experience and nationwide coverage, we provide professional, reliable transport across all 50 states.

We specialize in handling specialty vehicles like buses, bucket trucks, construction equipment, and other non-standard units, ensuring they arrive safely and on time. Our expert route planning accounts for traffic, weather, and logistical challenges, while our real-time communication keeps clients informed at every step.

ATC offers turnkey solutions, managing everything from pick-up and delivery to required documentation, so your team can focus on operations rather than logistics. With ATC Driveaway, vehicle delivery isn't just a task, it's a seamless, worry-free experience.

HOW ATC SIMPLIFIES VEHICLE DELIVERY

CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to decide whether auto transport or auto driveaway is the best fit for your vehicles, and to make sure you choose a carrier you can trust.

- ☐ How many vehicles need to be moved? One, a handful, or a fleet?

- ☐ What's the distance: local, intrastate, or across the country?

- ☐ Are any vehicles specialty or high-value units that need extra care?

- ☐ How flexible are the pick-up and delivery dates for the carrier?

- ☐ What types of vehicles does the carrier specialize in transporting?

- ☐ Does the carrier provide insurance coverage for damage, theft, or delays?

- ☐ How does the carrier track shipments and communicate updates?

- ☐ What safety and quality controls does the carrier have for drivers?

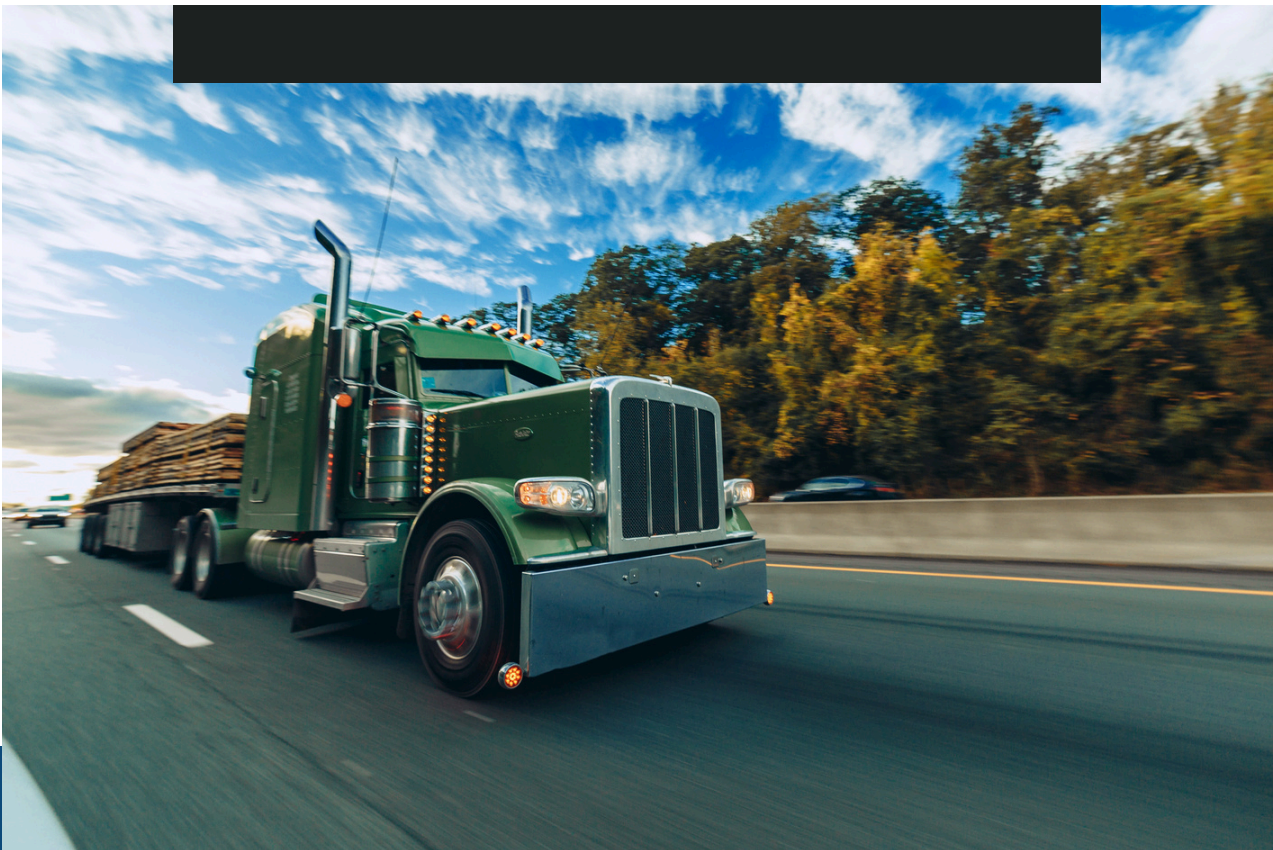
- ☐ Watch for transparency on delivery times, routes, or documentation.

- ☐ Do quotes seem too good to be true? Hidden fees may appear later.

- ☐ Watch for vague/inconsistent communication about scheduling.

- ☐ Don't hire drivers without experience with your type of vehicle.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP



Choosing the right vehicle delivery method isn't just a logistics decision; it impacts your time, budget, and the safety of your vehicles. Whether you're moving a single specialty vehicle or an entire fleet, the method you pick can save you headaches, protect your assets, and keep operations running smoothly.

At ATC Driveaway, we've spent over 20 years helping businesses like yours make the right choice. Our team handles everything from route planning and driver management to insurance and documentation, so your vehicles arrive safely, on time, and without surprises.

**Request a free consultation or quote today, and see how ATC
Driveaway can streamline your vehicle transport.**



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