



Common Accessorials.

Easy Guide to Shipping Add-ons.

What are they and when do you need them?



Accessorials (Add-ons).

Accessorials are extra services that go beyond the standard pickup and delivery services offered by freight carriers. Because [accessorials](#) are extended shipping services, they come with additional costs on freight invoices. Not properly understanding or identifying which accessorials you may need or not knowing which ones are required vs. optional may lead to [unexpected billing adjustments](#). No one wants to end up paying more for something that could have been avoided during the shipment booking phase. There are many possible accessorial charges, but we've identified the most common ones to think about when filling out a freight quote.



When
is an
accessorial

REQUIRED?

Depending on your shipping situation, some accessorial are required and need to be included when getting a quote. Before you start a quote, gather your information. Know exactly where you're shipping to and from, the location type and what equipment is available at these locations. By providing accurate details during the quote process, you can reduce your risk of billing adjustments.



1

Liftgate

A liftgate helps raise and lower freight cargo onto the truck or onto the street curb. How do you know whether or not you'll need one?

Ask yourself a few questions:

Does my cargo weigh less than 100 lbs.?

Is there a loading dock or forklift at the pickup/delivery locations?

If you answered “no” to either of these questions, a truck with a liftgate will be required. Shippers must provide means to load or unload their shipments if there is no loading dock/forklift. So, if your cargo weighs more than 100 lbs. and there is no loading dock or forklift at the pickup or delivery locations, you must communicate beforehand the need for a liftgate. If you don't order a liftgate during your quoting process and one is necessary, it'll result in a billing adjustment. Drivers will most likely abandon the shipment and the carrier will have to reschedule the pickup or drop-off.



TIP:

COVER ALL YOUR BASES. VERIFY AT BOTH THE PICKUP AND DELIVERY LOCATIONS IF A LIFTGATE WILL BE NECESSARY.





2

Residential Service

Residentially zoned areas are not freight truck-friendly and demand extra time for the driver such as exiting the interstate and maneuvering a giant tractor trailer through narrow, tree-covered streets of a suburban area.

Ask yourself a few questions. Is my location:

A house?

An apartment?

A dorm?

A ranch or farm?

A home-based business?

A remote location?

If you answered yes to any of these, then your shipment will require [residential service accessorial](#). Home-based businesses are often mistaken by shippers as commercial locations. This is a common misunderstanding and often leads to large billing adjustments for small businesses operating out of someone's home. In the eyes of freight carriers, a house is a house.



TIP:

RESIDENTIAL PICKUPS AND DELIVERIES ALMOST ALWAYS REQUIRE A LIFTGATE ACCESSORIAL AS WELL. NOT MANY HOUSES HAVE A LOADING DOCK EXTENSION OR A FORKLIFT SITTING AROUND!



Limited Access Pickup/Delivery

Any location that makes it difficult for trucks to pick up from or deliver to is considered a [limited access location](#). Factors like odd business hours, security clearance permissions or additional coordination with other parties means a limited access accessorial is required.

Determine by asking yourself if any of these apply. Is your shipment located at?

Government Facilities Hotel/Motel Church Storage Unit
Nursing Home Prison School Construction Site
Fair/Carnival

(These are just a few examples of limited locations.)



TIP:

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THE TYPE OF LOCATION YOU ARE SHIPPING TO AND FROM AND CONFIRM WITH YOUR SHIPPING AGENT IF YOUR PICKUP OR DELIVERY LOCATIONS REQUIRE A RESIDENTIAL OR LIMITED ACCESS ACCESSORIAL.



Optional. Accessorials.

There are additional optional accessorial services that can be added to your shipment. These options are great if you are in a time-crunch and want to utilize every tool and feature available in the shipping process to ensure a smooth experience.

Inside Pickup/Inside Delivery.

A common misconception shippers have about drivers and freight carriers is that they double as movers or moving services. However, any service by the driver that goes beyond simply picking up or dropping off a shipment at curbside is going to cost extra. You may specifically request [inside pickup or delivery](#) for your convenience when filling out a quote. Keep in mind, if you don't request this service, drivers often offer to help unload shipments or bring them into your business or residence. Though a kind act, it is still considered an additional service and many shippers don't realize it will be added to their final shipping invoice.



TIP:

HAVE A TRAINED TEAM READY WHEN THE TRUCK ARRIVES TO HELP WITH THE CARGO. IT'LL SAVE YOU MONEY AND STREAMLINE THE SHIPPING PROCESS FOR EVERYONE!

First Mile Service/Final Mile Delivery.

These accessorials are considered extended services for inside pickups and deliveries. [First Mile Service](#) offers inside pickup options that are great for shippers who may not have the means to get their cargo curbside for pickup outside their business or residence. There are also packaging services through First Mile Service that can help with this as well. [Final Mile Delivery](#) has different levels of service for inside deliveries. These levels include carrying shipments upstairs, removing debris or packaging materials and installation of items.

Special Handling.

Freight Conditions.

Many shipments demand special handling conditions. There are accessorials available when getting a quote for certain types of special freight. To save yourself from headaches and billing adjustments, understand how to identify special freight conditions, especially if you ship these types of freight on a regular basis.

Oversize Freight.

It can be tricky to clearly define what classifies as [“oversize freight.”](#) Individual carriers might define them differently and even an area’s infrastructure or state laws could dictate what is and what isn’t oversize freight. There are some general freight dimensions you can use as a reference to see if your freight is oversize: freight exceeding 8' 6" in width and freight exceeding 13' 6" in height.

Common examples of oversize freight are boats, heavy equipment, machinery, generators and trusses. Consulting with your shipping agent is the easiest way to identify if your freight classifies as oversize freight.

Overlength Freight.

The difference between oversize freight and overlength freight is overlength only pertains to a shipment’s outstanding length dimension. It’s also a bit easier to define, as most carriers are setting 96" as their overlength limit. However, there are still some carriers that accept cargo as long as 144" (12') without charging the overlength accessorial fee.



TIP: ALWAYS WEIGH AND MEASURE THE SIZE OF YOUR CARGO AFTER YOU PACKAGE IT. CARRIERS NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE SPACE TO ACCEPT YOUR LOAD. FOR THE BEST FREIGHT PACKAGING PRACTICES, CHECK OUT OUR [GUIDE TO FREIGHT PACKAGING.](#)

Hazmat.

[Hazardous materials](#) are obviously more specific and particular in the shipping process. There are stricter containerization requirements as well as additional paperwork and verification needed for carriers to transport. Examples of hazardous materials include fuels, biochemicals and pharmaceuticals.



TIP: PARTNER WITH A SHIPPING SOLUTIONS PROVIDER WHO CAN USE THEIR EXTENSIVE CARRIER NETWORK TO FIND LICENSED CARRIERS WHO CAN SERVICE YOUR HAZMAT SHIPMENT. YOU'LL ALSO SECURE THE BEST RATES AND A DEDICATED AGENT TO OFFER EXPERT GUIDANCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY SHIPPING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.





Have Questions?

We're here to help.

Our expert shipping agents are ready to assist and deliver the shipping experience your business deserves.

[Get a free quote](#) or talk to a shipping expert today (800) 716-7608.



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