

How To Choose The Right Transportation Logistics Partner

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When it comes to transportation and logistics, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Different methods of transportation offer distinct advantages in separate applications. As a result, it can be challenging to identify which one best suits your transportation needs. For this reason, many shippers partner with experienced transportation logistics companies to help them analyze their shipping and distribution requirements, evaluate potential solutions, and execute an effective and affordable plan.

At Satellite Specialized Transportation, we've provided full-service transportation and logistics services for over 30 years. We specialize in flatbed shipping, oversized loads, power-only trucking, and less-than-truckload (LTL) freight shipping. Our experts have put together the following guide to help customers choose the right transportation solution for their needs. It outlines the key characteristics, benefits, and applications of enclosed trailer shipping, flatbed shipping, and power-only trucking.

Overview of Enclosed Trailer Shipping

Enclosed trailers—also sometimes called dry van trailers—are covered, non-motorized compartments attached to and pulled behind the transportation vehicle. In contrast to open trailers, they have roofs and walls that form a complete container around the shipped materials.

Some of the key benefits of using enclosed trailers over other shipping methods include:

- **Better protection.** Compared to open trailers or flatbeds, enclosed trailers offer greater protection for cargo. The enclosed materials are protected on all sides from the elements (e.g., rain and snow), other environmental conditions (e.g., dust and debris), and theft.
- **Broader versatility.** Enclosed trailers are highly flexible. They can be used for LTL, half-full, and full-load shipping operations and for the transportation of a variety of non-perishable goods. Almost anything can be shipped in enclosed trailers as long as it fits inside and is not susceptible to damage or degradation without controlled environmental conditions. The goods themselves can also be organized in boxes, left loose, or shipped on pallets as needed.
- **Lower cost.** Enclosed trailers are widely available, making them a quick, easy, and affordable shipping solution for non-perishable goods.

Enclosed trailers are commonly used by the general public to move furniture from one home to another, store excess home and business supplies, and haul equipment to worksites. However, they are also utilized by industrial and commercial companies to distribute and deliver their products to distribution centers, retail stores, and end-users. Some of the industries that regularly employ enclosed trailers include:

- Automotive
- Cleaning Supplies
- Consumer Goods
- Electronics
- Entertainment
- Food and Beverage
- Health and Beauty
- Manufacturing



Overview of Flatbed Shipping

Flatbed trailers are uncovered compartments attached to and pulled behind the transportation vehicle. In contrast to enclosed trailers, they have no roofs or walls. As a result, any cargo shipped on them is left exposed.

Some of the key benefits of using flatbed trailers over other shipping methods include:

- **Greater dimensional versatility.** Flatbed trailers are ideal for shipping non-perishable goods that do not fit into dry van trailers or intermodal/multimodal shipping containers. They can accommodate cargo in non-standard shapes and sizes, including oversized freight up to exceeding 100 inches in length or width. They also generally offer a higher weight capacity than enclosed trailers.
- **Easier loading/unloading.** Since flatbed trailers are not enclosed compartments, workers can easily load and unload cargo with cranes, forklifts, and other specialized lifting equipment.

Since flatbed trailers do not provide protection to cargo against the environment, they are not suitable for goods susceptible to damage or degradation from water, sun, and other environmental factors. However, they are suitable for transporting heavy or bulky non-perishable goods such as construction materials (e.g., concrete beams, lumber, and trusses) and equipment (e.g., automobiles, CNC machines, excavators). Some of the industries that utilize flatbeds to distribute and deliver their products include:

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| ● Agriculture | ● Construction |
| ● Automotive | ● Distribution |
| ● Aviation/Aerospace | ● Manufacturing |

Overview of Power-Only Trucking

There are many scenarios in which a customer might own a trailer but not a tractor. For example, a company may use a trailer to store equipment to save on facility space or host temporary exhibits, worksites, or mobile operation centers. In both cases, the trailers are likely to be stationary for extended periods of time, and, consequently, the trailer owners are unlikely to find it cost-effective to purchase, maintain, and staff their own tractors. If and when they need to move the trailer, they would hire a tractor and driver from a different company. This transportation service is known as power-only trucking.

Some of the key benefits of using power-only trucking over other shipping methods include:

- **Lower overhead costs.** Power-only trucking services allow shippers to reduce the amount of money they spend on purchasing and maintaining vehicles and hiring and training drivers. As a result, they can allocate more money towards other areas of business, such as product improvement, marketing, or customer engagement.
- **Better flexibility.** Contracting companies have the freedom to choose a shipping contractor that meets their needs, whether the critical factor is the number of vehicles/drivers, delivery time, or ability to transport across borders.



Partner With Satellite Specialized Transportation for Your Freight Transportation Needs

Whether you require enclosed trailer, flatbed, or power-only shipping, you must find a freight broker that meets your shipping needs with effective, efficient, and affordable solutions. Equipped with over 30 years of experience in the truck freight transportation industry, Satellite Specialized Transportation is the ideal partner. Our expert team has the knowledge and skills to get your cargo where you need it, when you need it, and how you need it.

As a full-service transportation and logistics company, we offer a broad selection of freight services. In addition to dry van shipping, flatbed shipping, and power-only shipping, we also provide the following shipping options:

- [Air ride shipping](#)
- [Container shipping](#)
- [Double drop RND trailer shipping](#)
- [Expedited freight shipping](#)
- [HAZMAT shipping](#)
- [LTL freight shipping](#)
- [Ocean freight shipping](#)
- [Over-dimensional shipping](#)
- [Railway shipping](#)
- [Refrigerated van shipping](#)
- [Removable gooseneck shipping](#)
- [Stretch trailer shipping](#)

For additional information about our shipping services, [contact us](#) today. To receive pricing details and/or discuss your shipping needs with one of our experts, [request a quote](#).

About Us

Satellite Specialized Transportation Inc. has been in business since 1989. Our company annually earns a high industry credit rating, as rated by Dunn and Bradstreet. Our reputation and extensive resources allow us to consistently provide our customers with excellent service.

Our Mission: To provide solutions with integrity and professionalism in the transportation industry. To seek a team driven approach in an environment of success, with solid relationships built on trust, loyalty and a strong work ethic offering a culture to practice creativity and diversity.



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