

The Pros and Cons of Shipping by

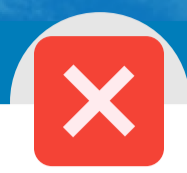
AIR

Shipping by plane is fast, easy to track and is accessible to just about any location with an airport nearby — but it comes with a high price tag.



PROS

- Fastest shipping mode, especially for long distances
- Accessible to most locations and doesn't require infrastructure like trucks and railroads
- Allows you to place orders on demand, reducing lead time, inventory and storage costs
- Easy to track your shipment while in transit



CONS

- Typically the most expensive shipping mode
- Easily impacted by inclement weather and susceptible to delays
- Low carrying capacity
- No door-to-door capability
- Airport infrastructure required
- Not as environmentally responsible as other shipping modes



COST

The biggest drawback for shipping by air is the cost. Air freight can cost up to 20 times the cost of other modes. Key cost drivers include the plane's jet fuel, maintenance, labor and landing fees – adding up to one hefty price tag.



SPEED

While road transport may be the quickest way to deliver goods short distances, air transportation is the fastest option for freight traveling long distances — especially for perishable goods, like flowers, food and pharmaceuticals. Transit time is typically between 24 and 48 hours.



CAPACITY

When you ship by air, you will have to meet size and weight requirements since planes usually have less cargo space than other modes. If you are looking to ship bulk, oversized and/or very heavy items, shipping by plane may not be the best choice for you.



REACH

Shipping by plane allows you to reach just about any location on the globe as long as there is an airport nearby. Plus, planes fly freely, so there is no obstruction of land, mountains, water, etc. to hinder the movement of your shipment. However, once your shipment arrives at the airport, you most likely will need to coordinate a pickup by truck to get your goods to their final destination.



SHIPMENT VISIBILITY

The ability to track your air freight is typically an easy thing to do. Most carriers will notify you at its point of departure and arrival at the destination airport.



RELIABILITY

While airplanes are speedy and keep fairly frequent schedules, they can easily be affected by any type of inclement weather, computer glitches and traffic congestion. Keep in mind that even short delays can turn into a big headache if you are relying on air to get your shipment delivered by a certain date and time.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Planes are one of the most fuel-intensive transportation modes, which means emissions are significantly higher in air freight transport compared to truck, rail and water.