



# Beyond the Box:

## How LTL Shipping Opens Up New Possibilities for Your Large and Heavy Freight





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# Introduction

Businesses have a variety of shipping options at their disposal, such as LTL shipping and oversized parcel shipping. Although both modes of shipping deliver goods, they possess distinct advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, businesses must comprehend which alternative suits them best.

## **Overview of Parcel Shipping Options**

Parcel shipping is when small packages are sent via courier. Though it may seem handy, it has drawbacks. The main drawbacks are the expenses and size limits. Shipping fees can pile up, especially for companies that send out products frequently. Plus, size restrictions could prevent you from shipping bulky or heavy items.

Some retailers may frequently need more products to occupy an entire carrier or may be unable to afford the full carrier space. In such cases, LTL shipping provides a solution. LTL shipping allows retailers to transport their goods without incurring the expense of a complete truckload.

# Understanding LTL Shipping: A Comprehensive Guide

## What is LTL Shipping?

For retailers who don't need a whole truck for their goods, LTL shipping is the perfect option. But what exactly is it? Let's take a closer look at it.

The LTL method of transportation enables the shipping of product that is too large for package carriers but not large enough to require a full truckload to be combined with multiple smaller shipments from other customers into a single truckload.

LTL shipping makes it possible to move items in smaller quantities more frequently.

## Advantages of LTL Shipping

### Cost Effective

You will find shipping with LTL to cost less when shipping your products. This is because you share costs with other retailers without handling logistics. You only pay for the shipping space instead of the whole carrier, which is cheaper. Additionally, you will not worry about warehouse costs. Remember, LTL shipping allows you to stockpile your goods and send them out. So, you won't have to pay for warehousing, reducing your operational costs.



### Facilitates Small Shipments

You will not have challenges shipping smaller packaging. LTL shipping accepts 150lbs. of shipments (up to 15,000 lbs.), enabling you to have a steady stock flow.

## It provides Peace of Mind

Since you can ship in bits, you will not have to worry about spending large sums of money on getting your products. You will also not have to worry about losing your goods as you can track their movements.

Modern technology makes it easier to know the exact location of your shipment and makes communication efficient. The LTL shipping company is also accountable for their services and ensures they give you the best experience.

## Product Protection

You will not get damaged goods upon delivery despite sharing shipment space. The shipping provider ensures that your products are carefully packaged before loading them into the carrier. So, despite the distance, your goods will arrive safely.



## Eco-Friendly Option

If you're an eco-conscious business, the best shipping option is LTL. LTL shipping reduces environmental pollution by allowing several companies to transport goods using a single carrier. The option reduces the amount of carbon pollution in the environment. As you know, everyone is currently struggling to reduce their carbon footprint by using eco-friendly options. Fewer carriers transporting business goods means lower fuel combustion, a great environmental threat.

## Offers Various Shipping Options

LTL shipping also enables you to choose a preferred shipping option. The available shipping options ensure you are not inconvenienced. For example, expedited shipping allows your goods to arrive earlier, which is good when looking for an emergency delivery. The liftgate option is good if your receiving location doesn't have a dock for goods. In contrast, the custom delivery window is functional when you want your shipment to arrive at the specified time.



## Limitations of LTL Shipping

While a cost-effective option for smaller shipments, LTL shipping presents certain limitations that may pose challenges for time-sensitive deliveries. One such limitation is the transit time, which tends to be longer than other shipping options, as the carrier has to make multiple stops to pick up and deliver smaller shipments. This can be a hindrance for those who require prompt delivery.

Another limitation is the handling and risk of damage. Since LTL shipments are consolidated with other shipments, they may be handled by different carriers multiple times, which increases the likelihood of damage or loss. This can be a cause for concern for those shipping fragile or valuable items.

LTL carriers function with restricted capacity. This means that shipping clients may encounter prolonged waiting periods for their shipments to secure a highly sought-after spot on a truck. Consequently, this can lead to further delays in delivery that can be a source of frustration for individuals who have packages with time-sensitive deadlines.

Pricing is also a limitation of LTL shipping. The pricing structure can be complex and may include additional fees for services such as lift-gate delivery or residential delivery. Furthermore, the pricing can be less predictable than other shipping options due to the multiple stops and consolidation of shipments, causing confusion and uncertainty.



Tracking and visibility can be tedious because LTL shipments involve multiple carriers and consolidation of shipments, which can make it difficult to keep tabs on the progress of the shipment. As a result, there needs to be more transparency in the entire shipping process.

## Recap of LTL Shipping

Small businesses can enjoy various advantages with LTL shipping. It is economical since they only pay for the space used. It is adaptable, as they can ship any amount. Additionally, LTL shipping is more secure than parcel shipping as products are handled fewer times, reducing the risk of damage. Lastly, LTL shipping is quicker than parcel shipping as products are transported directly to the destination without multiple stops.



# Understanding Oversized Parcel Shipping

## What is Oversized Parcel Shipping?

Oversized parcel shipping involves transporting packages that are usually too big or heavy for regular parcel services and requires specialized handling and equipment.

The size and weight limits for oversized parcel shipping vary depending on the carrier and transportation mode, whether by land or air.

Nevertheless, in general, a package is deemed oversized if it exceeds the carrier's maximum length, width, height, or weight restrictions.



## Advantages of Oversized Parcel Shipping

### Shipping Adaptability

Oversized parcel shipping can be an option if you need to ship a heavy or huge item that won't fit in a conventional package. This might be especially helpful if you need to send big equipment, huge appliances, or furnishings.

### Cost Effective

Depending on the weight and size of your goods, oversized package shipping may be a more affordable option than freight transportation. This is especially true if you simply need to move one or a few large goods.

### Protection

To help guarantee that your item gets to its destination securely and undamaged, many large parcel shipping providers provide additional protection and packaging choices. International shipments: If you need to transport huge or heavy things abroad, oversized parcel shipping can be a wonderful solution.

Many shipping companies specialize in oversized parcel shipping to international destinations and can help ensure that your item arrives safely and on time.



## Limitations of Oversized Parcel Shipping

### Cost

Shipping oversized parcels can be very expensive. Carriers may charge additional fees or surcharges for handling and delivering large packages, and the cost of transportation may be higher due to the size and weight of the parcel.

### Capacity

Some carriers have limitations on the size and weight of packages they can handle. This means that oversized parcels may not be able to be shipped through certain carriers or may require special arrangements, making them cumbersome.

### Delivery Time

Delivery of larger packages may experience delays compared to smaller parcels due to the need for special handling or transportation. This can lead to extended processing and delivery times.

### Fragility

Due to their size and weight, larger parcels are at a higher risk of sustaining more damage during transit. Consequently, it is imperative that extra precautions are taken to guarantee that the parcel is adequately packaged and safeguarded during shipment.

### Return Policies

Retailers may implement varying return policies for oversized parcel shipped items, posing challenges for customers seeking to return unsatisfactory purchases and for retailers managing oversized item returns.



# LTL Shipping vs. Oversized Parcel Shipping: Which is Best for Your Business?



It can be difficult for small businesses with limited resources to choose the right shipping method. Should you go for parcel shipping or LTL shipping? Let's discover which option suits your business best.

## Comparing LTL and Oversized Parcel Shipping

Oversized parcel shipping is a shipping method used for packages that are too large for standard parcel carriers but not big enough to qualify as LTL shipments. Oversized parcel shipping typically involves flat-rate pricing based on the dimensions and weight of the package. Compared to LTL shipping, oversized parcel shipping is often more expensive due to the larger size and weight of the packages. However, it can be a faster shipping method since carriers do not need to make multiple stops to combine shipments from different customers.

# Factors to Take into Account When Choosing Between LTL and Oversized Parcel Shipping



## Type of goods being shipped

The nature of the goods being shipped is a critical consideration when deciding between LTL and oversized parcel shipping. If the items are too heavy or large for parcel shipping, LTL is the preferred option. LTL shipping is suitable for items weighing between 150 and 15,000 pounds, while oversized parcel shipping is ideal for items up to 150 pounds that are larger than standard parcel sizes.

## Destination and delivery time requirements

Your destination and delivery time requirements should also be taken into account when selecting between LTL and oversized parcel shipping. LTL shipping may take longer to deliver than oversized parcel shipping since it involves multiple stops along the way. Therefore, if you need your items delivered urgently, oversized parcel shipping may be the better option. However, if time is not a significant factor, LTL shipping may be a more cost-effective option.



## Shipping budget

Your shipping budget is also a crucial factor to consider when choosing between LTL and oversized parcel shipping. Oversized parcel shipping may be less expensive for smaller items, but it can be costly for larger items. On the other hand, LTL shipping can be more cost-effective for larger items since you only pay for the space your items occupy in the truck.

## Availability of shipping options

The availability of shipping options in your area should also be considered when selecting between LTL and oversized parcel shipping. If you reside in a rural area, LTL shipping may not be available, and oversized parcel shipping may be your only option. However, if you live in a populated area, you may have access to both options, giving you the flexibility to choose the most suitable option for your business.



# Why Choose LTL Over Oversized Parcel Shipping

## Cost-effectiveness

Particularly for packages weighing more than 150 pounds, LTL shipment is frequently more affordable than oversized parcel shipping. With LTL shipping, you just pay for the amount of truck space your things occupy. This can help you save money, especially if you're sending fewer but larger things.

## Flexibility and Scalability

LTL shipping provides more flexibility and scalability than oversized parcel shipping. With LTL shipping, you can ship as little or as much as you need, and you can easily adjust your shipment's size or weight. This makes LTL shipping ideal for businesses with fluctuating shipping needs.

## Service Availability and Reliability

LTL carriers have extensive networks and can provide service to a broader geographic area than oversized parcel carriers. They also have higher standards for reliability and security since they handle multiple shipments at once.

# Tips for Choosing LTL Shipping



When deciding between LTL shipping and oversized parcel shipping, there are several factors to consider, including package size and weight, shipping timeframes, and budget.

## **Research** multiple LTL shipping options

It's essential to research different LTL shipping carriers and their services. Freight Club's seven levels of delivery services can help you understand the different options available to you.

## **Calculate** the total cost of shipping

Be sure to calculate the total cost of shipping, including any additional fees, such as fuel surcharges or accessorials charges.

## **Consider the reputation** of the LTL shipping carrier

Look for a carrier with a good reputation for reliability and customer service. You can read customer reviews or check the carrier's safety and compliance record..

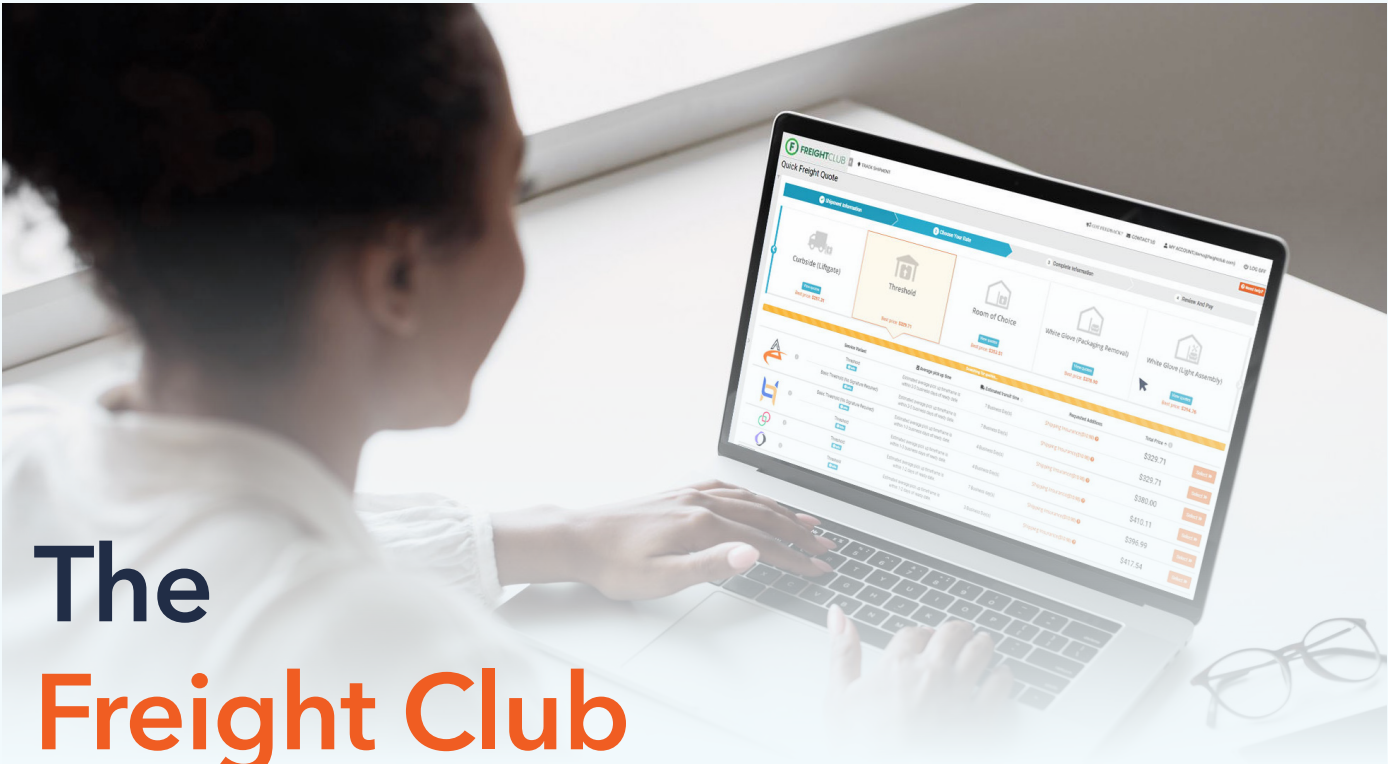
## **Communicate** with the LTL shipping carrier

Be sure to communicate with the carrier to ensure they understand your shipment's specific needs and requirements.

## **Final Thoughts**

Consider the size and weight of your item, as well as your budget and delivery needs, when deciding between LTL and large parcel transportation. Both LTL and oversized parcel delivery have benefits and drawbacks, and the best option will depend on your particular shipping requirements.

Working with a reputed shipping platform that offers customized shipping options and support like Freight Club will ensure a smooth and effective shipping experience.



# The Freight Club Advantage

**Freight Club** is an all-in-one shipping platform that helps retailers effortlessly manage everything from booking and tracking to complete claims management and shipping protection with zero subscription fees.

As part of Cymax Group Technologies, a leading eCommerce technology and services provider in the furniture industry since 2004, we offer retailers enterprise rates with no volume restrictions with up to 7 levels of LTL drop shipping services, from back of truck to white glove light assembly, across the U.S.

Our team of logistics experts provide personalized support to our retailers, helping them optimize their shipping strategy, manage their claims process and ensuring that our customers have a smooth shipping experience at Freight Club.

Trusted by thousands of retailers, Freight Club has been proudly planting trees across the United States, promoting clean air, clean water, and the prosperity of biodiversity - at no cost to our customers or carriers.

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