



7 Tips for Shipping Barrels

You put countless hours of thought, effort, and scrutiny into your wine. You probably even spent a considerable amount of time picking out the perfect barrel to enhance your wine. But what about shipping your barrels? This is an integral part of the buy process that often gets over looked. Patti Stockton, Barrel Builders Office Manager and Shipping Guru, has put together a list of some tips to help make sure your barrels arrive safe and on time!

- 1) **If you make your truckers life easier they'll appreciate it and return the favor.** You've heard happy wife happy life? The same goes for your trucker. There are a number of ways to do this. If you email your trucking company be sure to have **ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE E-MAIL** (pick up location, ship to location, contact person, phone number and any other information that needs to be on the Bill of Lading). Even if this is just for a quote it will save you time in the long run.
- 2) **Remember the cheapest option is not always the best option.** Barrels can be expensive and sometimes it's worth it to pay a little bit extra to ensure that they're in good hands. Generally, the price you pay is directly related to service you're going to get. We know this from experience.
- 3) **Always be ready with all the paper work before the driver arrives.** It is also helpful to call about 2 hours before the truck is schedule to arrive. Communication is so important, they might be stuck in traffic or a previous pick up wasn't prepared and so your driver is going to be delayed.
- 4) If possible, **ask to have each barrel labeled with who it is for and where it is going.** We use stick on labels where you just insert the info and put it on the plastic wrapping around the barrel. It's a great way to help the trucker keep track of your barrel, this is especially helpful when there're multiple barrel deliveries on one truck.
- 5) **When getting a shipping quote make sure your barrels are listed as Class 200.** If you don't use class 200 you could end up with a hefty fine or the trucker could deny shipment till it is classified under the right listing. By ensuring the right classification it'll save you time and aggravation.
- 6) **Ask the trucking company if they require the barrels to be palletized.** It is a requirement for some companies (especially in the mid-west and east coast) and therefore will change your final shipping cost.
- 7) **When getting a shipping quote here's a list of the information you'll need**
 - Pick up location
 - Ship to location
 - Weight
 - Class (shipping wine barrels the class is 200)
 - Dimensions
 - Contact person for each location
 - Phone numbers
 - Labels for each barrel-where they are being delivered to
 - Have 3 Bills of Lading; one for the driver to sign, one for the trucking company, one for the recipient at the end.