Winter-Proof Your Shipments

Winter weather causes over $8.7 billion in U.S. freight delays and damages annually. If your products can't freeze, then even one exposure can cost you the shipment, the customer, and your margin.

When Freeze Protection Is Not Enough

- Single digit temperatures are forecasted
- Your product requires a specific temperature band
- Transit includes weekend or holiday dwell where freight is likely to stop or sit idle
- Facilities have slow unloading or rigid schedules
- The lane is long haul, rural, or crosses mountain corridors

Common Winter Shipping Mistakes

- ✗ Last-minute tenders
- ✗ Minimal packaging or insulation
- ✗ Staging freight outdoors

Scenario	Freeze Protection	Heated Truck	Reefer LTL
Weekend transit without dwell	Yes	No	No
Strict Temp. Requirements	No	Yes	Yes
Single-digit Temperatures	No	Yes	Yes
Long-Haul LTL	No	No	Required
Facilities w/ slow unloading	Possible*	Yes	Required
Mountain Passes	Not Advised	Required	Required
Canada Cross-Border	No	Required	Required
Rural Delivery	No	No	Required
Friday Pickups	No	Possible	Required

**Risk increases significantly if the shipment stops over a weekend.*

Scheduling Matters in Winter

Weather delays can push drivers outside appointment windows.

Missed appointments often lead to overnight or weekend exposure.

Best practices:

Use Monday–Thursday pickups for long hauls

Favor morning appointment windows

Avoid late Friday and pre-holiday pickups

Allow flexibility and buffer time during winter months

The MFW Winter Freight Checklist

- ✓ Temperature forecast along the route
- ✓ Required service type
- ✓ Appointment flexibility
- ✓ Weekend or holiday exposure
- ✓ Facility unloading speed
- ✓ Lane and terminal risk

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