

Dispatching and Beyond



# ***Free Dispatcher Course***

For Kyrgyz community entering  
the US Trucking Industry

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### **3. Trailer Types**

## TYPES OF CARGO

# Introduction to Trailer Types

### Open Trailers:

Flatbed, Step Deck, Double Drop



### Enclosed Trailers:

Dry Van, Refrigerated (Reefer), Box Truck



### Specialized Trailers:

Tanker, Lowboy, Curtain Side, Car Carrier



## TYPES OF CARGO

# Loading Methods



### Palletized Cargo

Commonly loaded with forklifts, provides ease of handling and stability.



### Floor-Loaded Cargo

Items loaded directly onto the floor without pallets, maximizes space.



### Bulk Cargo

Loose materials such as grains or liquids, requires specialized trailers.

## KEY TRAILER TYPES

### **Standard Trailer Length:**

48 to 53 feet (14.6 to 16.2 meters).

**Width:** 8.5 feet (2.6 meters).

**Height:** 13.5 feet (4.1 meters)  
for most trailers.

### **Payload Capacity:**

Up to 45,000 pounds (20,400 kg),  
depending on the trailer type.

On average, a truck travels between

**5 to 8 miles per gallon** of fuel.

One truck holds up to 80 gallons.

1 gallon = 3.78541 liters.



**Flatbed**



**Dry Van**

**Reefer**

# KEY TRAILER TYPES

## Dry Van Trailers



Maximum weight: 42,000 - 45,000 lbs.  
Maximum length: 48 ft. - 53 ft.  
Maximum pallets: 26.

Volume: 3,500 ft. Width: 96\* - 102".  
Height: 12.5\* - 13.5\*.  
Tare weight: 14,780 lbs.

### Pros

maximizes trailer volume  
minimal maintenance  
fast loading/unloading  
low cost  
easy to use  
versatile cargo options

### Cons

high competition  
popular among beginners  
fast wear and tear  
lower freight rates compared to Reefer

# Dry Van Trailers

## Vented Vans

Equipped with air flow systems for better circulation.



## Lift Gate

Facilitates loading/unloading without a dock.



## With and Without E-Tracks

E-Tracks aid in securing loads.



## Roll Doors vs. Swing Doors

Roll doors save space, swing doors offer better sealing.



# KEY TRAILER TYPES



## Reefer Trailers

**Refrigerated trailers:** Maintain specific temperature ranges, essential for perishables.



### Pros

- less competition
- strict load/unload schedules
- higher freight rates
- wide range of cargo options, including food, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals

### Cons

- complex to operate
- longer loading/unloading times
- strict appointments
- additional costs
- constant temperature monitoring



# Comparative Analysis

## Dry Van:

**Pros:** Low cost, versatile, quick operations.

**Cons:** High competition, faster wear, lower freight rates.

**Dispatcher:** Easy to plan, high availability.

**Driver:** Simple operation, secure cargo.

## Reefer:

**Pros:** Higher rates, less competition, specialized.

**Cons:** Complex, requires constant monitoring.

**Dispatcher:** High earnings potential, requires precise timing.

**Driver:** More responsibility, consistent work but higher maintenance.

## Flatbed:

**Pros:** High earning potential, flexible, high demand.

**Cons:** Requires special skills, weather exposure.

**Dispatcher:** High demand, fewer scheduling conflicts.

**Driver:** Challenging conditions, requires experience.