

LIMOUSINE RENTAL TIPS

DON'T MAKE A PRECIOUS MISTAKE!

Most people wouldn't hire the cheapest surgeon, or stay at the cheapest hotel, yet, many consumers shop for a limousine service in this fashion.

Would you hire the cheapest surgeon?

The biggest mistake you can make when looking to hire a limousine service is basing your decision solely on the "best price". This translates into a large risk for you. Do you want to accept the risks outlined below?

"CHEAP LIMO PRICE" SHOPPING RISKS

- Prom night is finally here, but your limousine is not. Now your parents have to drive you and your date instead.
- A 1989 limousine rusting at the seams arrives at your door when you were expecting a newer model. Instead of being lavished by luxury, you're embarrassed.
- It's discovered that the company you hired is not USDOT compliant at a traffic stop, and now as you wait by the side of the road you wonder, "How do I get to my destination?"
- Your limousine arrives late for your wedding. The groom begins to wonder if he has a runaway bride. Finally, you arrive at the ceremony to bewildered guests. Yet, you saved \$50.
- Your chauffeur is not uniformed and improperly trained. He exercises poor customer service with your company's most influential client. You lose the account.
- The vehicle breaks down, but, the company only has one car. So you arrive at your hotel two hours later in a tow truck instead. Your hotel room is \$195 per night. Yet, you saved \$20 on that "great" airport rate.
- You're traveling with a small group of colleagues and expecting a comfortable, roomy vehicle that can accommodate all of you and your luggage. Instead, you get crammed into a mini-van with luggage on your lap and behind your head.

Don't let this happen to you. Here's a list of five questions you should always ask:

1. Can you provide proof of insurance?

2. Is your company USDOT compliant? If so, what are your USDOT & MC (Motor Carrier) numbers?
3. Are your chauffeurs screened for drugs and alcohol?
4. What year, make and model is the vehicle?
5. What is included in the price quote?

****Helpful hint:** Federal law requires all transportation operators to have a USDOT number. To verify USDOT compliance info visit www.saferys.org and click on Company Snapshot. Then pick an option (USDOT# or MC/MX#) and type in the number you were provided. This will immediately tell you whether the number is legitimate and who it belongs to.

Ultimately, the message here is be a wise consumer and educate yourself before entering a contract. Look at the whole package before making a decision, and never base your decision solely on price.

There are a lot of “under the radar” operators offering “great deals” and the “best” price. Don’t be fooled!