

Heavy rainfall and snowfall:

How inclement weather affects your supply chain.

1.

Dangerous road conditions threaten driver's safety and cause delays.

Truck drivers experience huge challenges when they're faced with extreme weather conditions.



Freezing rain:

Road conditions are unpredictable during freezing rain, making it virtually impossible to keep control of a truck once the road becomes icy.



Heavy snowfall:

Drivers are required to get off the road and chain up for better traction, in order to be able to keep moving forward.



High winds:

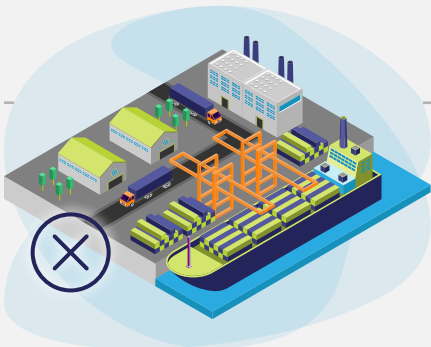
Some high winds are powerful enough to blow a truck off the road, especially if they are hauling lightweight loads. Dangerous crosswinds are common on wide-open interstate highways.



Blowing / Drifting Snow:

When snow drifts are piling up in the lane, passing trucks might send snow off the ground into another driver's windshield, reducing visibility in seconds.

As you can see, adverse weather causes unsafe road conditions, making it necessary for drivers to pull over and wait until conditions improve. On top of that, there might actually be road closures in case of flooding or accumulated snow, which inevitably translates into extended transit times and delays.



2.

Limited or suspended terminal operations.

Adverse weather conditions cause further service disruptions, by forcing terminals or ports to temporarily close or carry on limited operations to keep both their employees and facilities safe.

When these disruptions occur, several shipments can be on hold at different terminals until the closed terminal resumes operations. In the case of terminals open with limited operations, most orders pile up causing delays and many implications down the line, from failed delivery deadlines to upset customers and economic losses.

3.

Tightening capacity, which drives up rates.

As we've learned before, inclement weather can cause trucks to get stuck on the road as a result of flooding or excessive snow.

These trucks may be in the middle of a jam or a major highway filled with freight pending to be delivered, which automatically leaves them out of the capacity pool, making it harder to find carriers with enough capacity. As a result, shipping rates tend to skyrocket to make up for limited capacity.



4.

Potential damage on your freight.

Adding up to the operational setbacks that the adverse weather conditions can have on your supply chain, there's another element to consider and it's the fact that your freight is exposed to increased damage risks, be it due to accidents on the road, or accidents while handling your freight.

Now, how can you prepare to ship your freight during harsh weather conditions?

Follow these **5 tips** in order to stay ahead of any possible disruptions during challenging weather conditions.



Check out if you have any pickups or deliveries within the affected areas.



Develop a storage and re-routing plan in case of emergency.



Consider alternative routes.



Keep in mind extended transit times and how it might impact the arrival of your freight to its destination.



Insure your cargo.

