



Packing Lead Time and Shipping Notes

What the lead time covers, how pieces are crated, how large work is installed, and what to send with an enquiry.



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Terms	T/T, 50% deposit and 50% balance before shipping
Lead time	15 to 30 days after deposit received

Packing Lead Time and Shipping for Sculpture Orders

What the 15 to 30 day lead time actually covers, how pieces are crated, and what to send so the first quote is the right one.

What the Lead Time Covers

Delivery is 15 to 30 days after the deposit is received, and hollow ball batches run 20 to 30 days. That window covers cutting, forming, welding, seam grinding, fixings, finishing and packing. It does not include your sea or air freight from Shenzhen, which you or your forwarder arrange separately.

What Makes an Order Take Longer

Mixed diameter orders that need several polish batches sit at the top of the range, and so do colour finished sets where a sample has to be signed off first. Large fabricated commissions with shop drawings also take longer at the front end, because the drawings are agreed before the sheet is cut.

How Pieces Are Packed

Soft foam plastic goes directly against the surface, then a strong wooden or iron case is built around it. Large diameters sit on a wooden stand or cradle inside the case. Protective film stays on the finished surface throughout. For irregular sculptural forms the case is built around the actual geometry rather than to a standard box size.

Payment and Approval

Terms are T/T with 50 percent deposit and 50 percent balance before shipping. Before the balance is invoiced we send photographs of the finished batch for approval, which is the last practical point at which anything can be corrected without shipping a piece back across an ocean.

What Your Forwarder Needs

Crate dimensions, gross weights and cradle detail are supplied for freight and crane planning. For large pieces these appear on the shop drawings alongside the lift points, so the same document serves the forwarder and the installer.

What to Send with an Enquiry

A photograph or drawing, the diameter or overall size, the site exposure, the finish you want, the fixing you already have, the quantity and the date it has to be on site. With those seven things the first reply is a price and a lead time rather than another round of questions.

Questions On This Topic

Is the lead time from order or from deposit?

From the deposit. Production is scheduled once the 50 percent T/T deposit is received.

Does the lead time include shipping?

No. It covers production and packing. Freight from Shenzhen is arranged separately.

Can several products ship in one crate?

Yes. Mixed orders are crated together and quoted as one shipment with one lead time.

What happens if I am not happy with the photographs?

That is exactly why they are sent before the balance is invoiced. Issues are corrected before the crate closes.

Do you supply crate weights in advance?

Yes. Crate dimensions and gross weights are supplied for freight and crane planning.

Installing a Large Stainless Steel Sculpture

What has to be agreed before a large piece ships, from base plate geometry to when the protective film comes off.

Installation Starts at the Enquiry

The expensive mistakes on large pieces are made months before the crate arrives: a foundation poured to the wrong bolt pattern, a crane booked for the wrong weight, or a fixing that has to be drilled into a finished mirror surface. All three are avoidable if the fixing conversation happens at the quotation stage.

Shop Drawings and the Groundworks Package

For large commissions we issue detailed shop drawings covering the base plate, the bolt pattern, the weight and the lift points. Those drawings need to reach your civil engineer before the groundworks package closes. Once concrete is poured, changing a bolt pattern costs far more than issuing a drawing early.

Fixings Are Welded Before Polishing

Pedestals, spigots, flanges and base plates are welded on before the final polish, and threaded holes are tapped at the same stage. This is why we ask for the base detail with the order. Site drilling of a finished surface leaves scratching around the fixing that cannot be polished out in place.

Lifting and Handling

Hollow construction keeps large pieces far lighter than cast equivalents, which is often the difference between a two person lift with a padded cradle and a booked crane day. Plan a two point lift and a padded cradle for anything above about 1500 mm, and keep the protective film in place while the piece is moved.

Uncrating and Final Cleaning

Take the piece out of the case with the film still on. Fix it down, finish the surrounding groundworks, clean the site, and only then peel the film. Removing it early is the most common way a perfectly good surface picks up damage during the rest of the site programme.

Ongoing Maintenance

Clean water and a soft cloth. No wire brushes, no abrasive pads, no chloride based cleaners. A correctly specified stainless piece has no repainting cycle, which is the argument that usually wins over a facilities team looking at a twenty year maintenance budget.

Questions On This Topic

Do you install the sculpture?

No. Installation is done by a local crew. We supply shop drawings with the base plate, bolt pattern, weight and lift points so they can plan it properly.

When do I need the shop drawings?

Before the groundworks package closes. That is usually well ahead of the delivery date.

Can fixings be added after delivery?

Not without damaging the finish. All holes, threads and plates are made before the final polish.

How heavy is a large hollow piece?

Far lighter than a cast equivalent, but the exact weight comes from the wall thickness and the geometry. It is stated on the shop drawings.

When should the protective film be removed?

After the piece is fixed and the site around it is clean.