

The Orlando Mobile Diesel Survival Guide

This checklist is designed for owner-operators and fleet managers running routes through Central Florida. Use this list to vet mechanics before a crisis hits and to maintain your rig in humid conditions. Keep this document in your cab for quick reference when the unexpected happens.

Phase 1: Vetting Your Provider (Do This Before You Drive)

- **Search for specialists beforehand.** Look for mechanics who specifically mention software for your engine make (Cummins, Detroit, etc.).
- **Verify liability insurance.** Ask for proof of coverage to protect your asset during on-site repairs.
- **Confirm billing structure.** Ask specifically if the trip charge is a flat rate or mileage-based to avoid Orlando traffic surcharges.
- **Check availability hours.** Ensure they offer true 24/7 service, not just an answering machine after 5 PM.
- **Save contacts locally.** Store the numbers of two different vetted mechanics in your phone and written in your logbook.

Phase 2: Florida-Specific Maintenance (Routine Habits)

- **Inspect electrical connections.** Check battery terminals and harness plugs for green corrosion (verdigris) caused by humidity.
- **Apply dielectric grease.** Coat exposed electrical connections to seal out moisture.
- **Monitor coolant acidity.** Test coolant strips frequently, as heat degrades additives faster in the South.
- **Treat your fuel.** Add biocide to your tanks to prevent algae growth, which thrives in warm, wet climates.
- **Check air conditioning.** Ensure the cabin AC is draining properly to avoid leaking water onto internal fuse boxes.

Phase 3: Roadside Breakdown Protocol (In The Moment)

- **Secure the vehicle.** Park as far right as possible and place triangles immediately.
- **Check the basics.** Look at coolant levels, oil levels, and belt integrity before calling.
- **Locate your VIN.** Have your Vehicle Identification Number and Engine Serial Number (ESN) ready for the dispatcher.

- **Note your exact location.** Look for mile markers or the nearest exit number on I-4 or the Turnpike.
- **Ask for an ETA.** Get a confirmed estimated time of arrival to manage your delivery window expectations.

Phase 4: Post-Repair Verification (Quality Control)

- **Request a detailed invoice.** Ensure parts and labor are listed separately for warranty purposes.
- **Ask about warranty terms.** Confirm in writing how long the repair is guaranteed (typically 30–90 days).
- **Test the repair.** Perform a full system cycle or test drive while the mechanic is still on-site.
- **Update maintenance logs.** Record the service date, mileage, and nature of the repair immediately.