

All limos are the same on the inside - right?

Wrong.

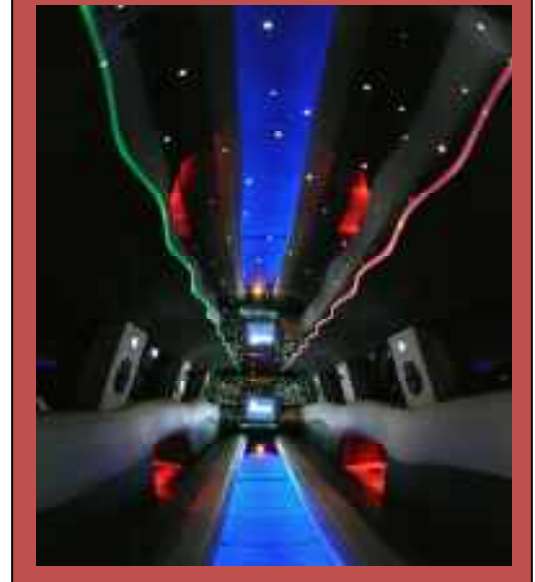
Interiors vary dramatically. Here are some of the things we have seen firsthand in many of the limousines in Cincinnati:

- **Moldy Headliners.** That's right – mold. Older limousines leak and rust, and all that water can make things moldy. Channel 5 did an I-team investigation on a limo company that was targeting the wedding industry and renting out limousines with mold covered headliners. They're still in business too!
- **No A/C.** Think the A/C is going to work on the limousine you rent? Bad assumption. A/C is very expensive to keep up, especially on older limousines. And since the majority of limousines in Cincinnati are older than 10 years, this is a major problem.
- **No glassware.** This is an easy way to see if you are making a bad choice. Ask if glassware is included in the limousine. Many companies don't have glassware in limousines due to the cost. They'll either give you plastic cups, or they'll simply have nothing there at all. Obviously if a limousine company can't afford glassware, they're probably a risky choice.

When you visit a limousine company, look at their vehicles tire tread. Many of the **"Oh no – bad limo"** companies are so close to closing that they have no money for maintenance. We've even seen dual axle Hummers with tires so bald that the cords are showing!



Plain vs. Fancy



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- **Torn up, and worn out.** Ripped seats, flattened stuffing, demolished interiors, and non-functional electronics. You wouldn't put up with that in your own personal vehicle, but there are a lot of limousines like this running around Cincinnati.

- **Plain Jane.** Just like you can spot the difference between a Cadillac interior and a Kia interior, you can really find different quality levels of interior trim and design. There are some really plain Jane limos out there, and there are some truly fancy ones out there. Motortoy's Limousine goes all the way to California for their cutting edge interiors, while most Cincinnati companies go to Dayton Ohio and buy from one of the low end "Plain Jane" builders there.

There are 2 ways companies will hide these problems from you:



1. **Lie.** They'll put pictures of limousines on their web site that aren't theirs. They just surf the web, find nice pictures of other company's limousines and "borrow" their pictures.
2. **Hide.** No address on a web site? Bad sign. That might mean that they don't want you to know where they are. Makes it difficult to view the vehicles in person, doesn't it? And really, what kind of business doesn't have an office?

So what's the solution?

Take the time to go and look in person. If there is no address on a company's web site, and you still think you're interested, ask them for their address. Amazingly, many will refuse. Run from these guys! Once you are there look for these things:

- Is there an office, or is this a limousine in someone's driveway?
- Are there regular business hours, or did you have to make an appointment?
- If the office professional looking, or are you in someone's basement?
- Look for D.O.T. numbers on both sides of the limousines. No D.O.T. numbers? Run!! They're operating illegally, and probably have no insurance
- As for their proof of insurance card. It should be in the glove box (just like in your own personal car). Make sure it's current – we keep hearing stories of people being handed proof of insurance cards that are expired. If they refuse, they don't have insurance. Run!!!
- Look at the tire tread. Bald tires mean little or no maintenance.
- Walk all the way around the limousine. You'll be amazed how many wrecked limousines people are trying to rent to you.
- Ask how old the limousine is. Most people assume a limo automatically means a nice new vehicle. The truth is far from that. Many limousines you look at will be older than you. Do you think they'll volunteer that information? Of course not.
- Take a deep breath when you first enter the vehicle. You'll be amazed how many limousines reek of vomit, beer, sweat, etc.
- Look in the coolers and look up at the ceiling. Any mold?
- Make sure you have them turn the vehicle on while you are in it. Make sure the stereo, TV, A/C, etc. are working. You'll be amazed how many limousines you'll sit in that have broken electronics.



Most important of all, see our article "How to pick a great limousine"