

Demurrage: What is it and How to Avoid Extra Costs

When your container arrives at a New Zealand port — Auckland, Tauranga, Lyttelton, Wellington, or Napier — it sits in the port yard until you collect it. The shipping line gives you a set number of days to collect it for free, known as free time — usually three to seven days.

Miss that window and you'll start paying demurrage — a daily per diem fee that can run into hundreds of dollars. A customs hold or paperwork delay can get expensive fast. Have your documents sorted and transport booked before your shipment arrives.



Detention: Understanding Container Return Deadlines

Once you've collected your container, you have a separate free time window to unpack and return it empty to a depot — usually three to seven days. This is independent of your port free time, so don't assume they're the same.

Exceed that and the shipping line charges a daily per diem detention fee for every extra day. The good news? Container Transport has its own fleet of containers for hire — unpack at your own pace into one of ours and avoid shipping line deadlines and detention fees altogether. Simple, stress-free, and cost-effective.