

Frequently Asked Questions: Ram ProMaster

The Malley Crossover Ambulance

What makes this a crossover ambulance?

The Malley Crossover Ambulance is the result of 21st century forward thinking design incorporating next generation materials. At first glance, it's a Type II, but opening the rear doors reveals an interior that is almost as spacious as a Type III.

Malley accomplished this by utilizing their thermoforming capabilities to create cabinetry that follows the shape of the inside structure of the vehicle. This allowed them to utilize what would typically be lost behind traditional flat, full-wall cabinets. This "found" space allows the flexibility of transporting bariatric patients while retaining full operational access to the patient.

Why the ProMaster platform?

The benefits of the ProMaster from both an EMT / Paramedic's and an ambulance service provider's perspective are size, workable space and most importantly, the floor height as compared to other van platforms or modulares. At only 25", it has the lowest cargo floor / load height in the industry. When lifting people and stepping in and out of the vehicle every shift, having the floor significantly lower than any other platform is a considerable benefit to reduce muscle strain and fatigue. The lower floor also makes loading ambulatory (walking) patients or passengers easier.

How does the Ram ProMaster compare to other van alternatives?

The ProMaster interior space is comparable to a modular ambulance, which gave Malley enormous flexibility with their design. Even with the weight of the full ambulance conversion, it has the highest payload capacity in the industry (exceeds 2,300 lbs) which makes it viable as a bariatric-capable ambulance.

It also features a finished interior height of 6'2", so over 96% of EMT / Paramedics & patients can stand comfortably. Another positive aspect is that it's front wheel drive, which is more user-friendly due to the fact that the majority of people operate front wheel drive vehicles for personal use. Front wheel drive vehicles are known for better handling and control characteristics in poor weather situations such as rain, snow and icy conditions.

What about fuel economy?

The six cylinder engine has improved fuel economy over other Type II ambulances and is significantly better than the gas guzzling mini or full size modulares. When fully loaded, it averages approximately 13 to 15 MPG city and 17 to 20 MPG highway for city including patient, caregiver and driver. This is a savings of 33-40% in fuel costs over traditional fleets.

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What ergonomic features are incorporated in the treatment area?

The interior was designed from a paramedic's point of view with the goal of having most of the consistently-used equipment within arm's reach of the attending medic in a safely-seated position. Controls and equipment access is angled and positioned toward the EMT / Paramedic while adjustable seating allows more flexibility when attending to the patient. There's an optional telescopic cabinet that adjusts to accommodate the reach of the EMT / Paramedic.

What ergonomic features are in the cab?

Design focus was not limited to the patient area. It also maximizes the space in the cab area to accommodate full seat travel and recline for significantly improved comfort while on stand-by. Optional compartments for storing staff personal items and documents are also available.

What are the benefits of using thermoformed materials?

This interior type creates a seamless design which is easier to maintain and sanitize. Conversion weight is significantly reduced, which reduces service costs (fuel consumption) and the overall operating cost per mile while lessening the environmental impact. More important though is the safety that this kind of interior offers in that the materials are energy absorbent, thus absorbing impact in the unfortunate event of a collision.

What other benefits are there to using thermoformed materials?

The Malley thermoformed interior is rugged and therefore, extremely durable yet lightweight and safe. Other manufacturers build rigid interiors but that does not make them rugged. Rigid materials such as wood and Formica are heavy and will crack as the materials expand and contract at different rates. Aluminum requires heavy metal sub-structure to eliminate an "oil can" effect, thereby reducing any weight savings. Our rugged, shock-absorbing thermoformed material will stand up to temperature changes without cracking or rattling and is impervious to fluid intrusion.

What other features make the Malley Crossover so different?

This configuration is beneficial to the fleet manager because the design is predominantly of rugged molded thermoformed materials. In the unlikely event of damage, parts are easily replaced by the owner's service centre, thus reducing vehicle servicing downtime.

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What did it take to develop this innovative ambulance?

Over the past two years, the Malley engineering team evaluated ambulance service vehicles in many jurisdictions to see how their vehicles are designed to provide pre-hospital care. Concurrently, their engineering team worked collaboratively with a core group of long-term customers on this and other designs for the newer vehicle platforms that have been introduced in North America. This resulted in the creation of several in-service prototypes where actual paramedical user input was provided. This in-service input made an invaluable contribution to the evolution of the Malley Crossover Ambulance.

How does pricing compare to other ambulances?

Acknowledging the demands on the health care industry to minimize spending, the Malley Crossover Ambulance is priced significantly below a modular ambulance with the same patient carry capability. Depending on customer-required equipment, it can be as affordable as a much smaller traditional Type II.

What features are notable?

Ergonomics: The ergonomics and comfort both in the treatment area and the user-friendly cab. The stair chair is secured in a slide-out tray accessible from the side door of the treatment area. This makes it very accessible as EMT / Paramedics do not have to enter the vehicle to access this lifesaving equipment.

Ease of handling: Front wheel drive is more familiar to most drivers and results in increased performance in snow, ice or slippery conditions.

Lowest load height: It has the lowest floor height and tightest turning radius in the industry. This vehicle can also be serviced at any Dodge / Ram service dealer, it shares the same proven engine and drivetrain as many common sedans, mini-vans and pickup trucks.

Fuel economy: Very good fuel economy with 17 - 20 mpg for highway driving and 13 to 15 mpg for city driving fully equipped, including patient, caregiver and driver.

Lower operating costs: Decreased vehicle weight will translate into lower operating costs with less fuel, brake wear, engine and transmission wear and tear and increased tire tread life.

Extras included as standard: Many standard features which are optional with other manufacturers (example: small O2 bottle holder, glove boxes, light bar, convenience caddy on the rear door panel, Lonseal flooring).

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Is the Malley Crossover Ambulance (ProMaster) triple K compliant?

Yes, all the required certification testing has been successfully completed. It is fully compliant to all U.S. regulatory requirements. Malley will provide regulatory officials with the documentation they require to ensure compliance with variations in state regulations.

How many variations are available?

The opportunity to configure one or a whole fleet of Crossover Ambulances is provided through the availability of multiple interior configurations giving you the option of as many as nine compartments on the action wall to as few as five. Choose a traditional squad bench or swivel seating with or without our telescoping cabinet. Many other functional / ergonomic features are also available. Malley Industries will be happy to work with you to configure the most cost effective and functional Crossover Ambulance to suit your customers' operational needs.

Awards

A multiple award winning family-owned company, Malley Industries has been recognized with awards for innovation, quality, excellence in manufacturing and ethics in business.

Certifications

Our skilled fabrication specialists incorporate the latest technology in the products we design and manufacture. Our long-standing commitment to quality, testing and compliance certification has positioned this company as a leader in North America among the major OEM vehicle manufacturers, ensuring that modifications carried out on their vehicles retain full OEM warranty. ■