

# What Makes An Indiana Custom Truck So Different?

**Y**ou've been driving for years and have watched those big bunk custom sleepers going down the highway. You've seen them at trade shows or truck stops. You dream about owning one and you want to bring your dream to life, but how do you do it? Building one is like building a new home; you have a lot of decisions to make and it's a big financial decision. Well, we decided to see what it's like to take the plunge and we found an exceptional company to do it with... Indiana Custom Truck or ICT.

The cheerful greeting when you walk in the door is the first indication of why ICT is so successful. As you look around their spacious showroom full of sleepers, you also notice something else. All the offices bordering the showroom have large windows, allowing you to see who is in at a quick glance. It also means you never go unnoticed! Someone walks out and says hello as they shake your hand. You feel more like you walked into someone's home rather than a business.

People are coming and going as it is a busy place. As you sit down and discuss what you're looking for, others stop by and say hello. Before long you've got two or three folks to answer your questions and to give you some perspective as you layout your plans. You start to relax, as there is no real pressure to buy but a lot to learn and absorb. They take you on a tour of their manufacturing facility.

You start off in the metal shop where they build the structure, glue on the gel coat walls and fit the fiberglass roof. You meet the plant manager, Harley Miller, who stops and



chats. He takes you over to a side department, where they make their own FMVSS compliant doors in house. No rush, no push; just take your time. Harley says, "It's fun to walk customers through the plant, you can see them get excited when they learn how the sleepers are made. Many of our customers get to know various plant employees as we build their sleeper. It gives my folks and me a great deal of satisfaction."

We then walk through their cavernous paint booth, which has a huge sleeper inside. The DuPont certified painters are busy prepping it to add some stripes down the side. From there, you enter the interior department. You meet the company President, Elwin Eash, who is out checking on one of his customer's sleepers. He is a laid back person who seems more interested in you as an individual than as another sale. Elwin reflects on ICT's history saying, "We've come a long way since starting in 1990. Our sleepers today reflect our commitment to try and improve them year after



*Sundowner*  
Sleepers

**"Tell us what you want, leave the rest to us!"**

You will have to get used to being the center of attention wherever you go. Your CB will constantly be crackling with compliments and questions! Custom features are virtually limitless; solid wood cabinets, showers, toilet, custom manufactured countertops, curtains and valances, carpet, linoleum or simulated hardwood flooring, flat screen TV's, gaming systems, freezer, refrigerator, microwave, cooktop, even mirrored ceiling

**No more shower  
lines, and you can eat  
healthier too!**

and chandeliers! We have just about done it all at one time or another!

But don't forget the exterior; stainless steel back walls and trim, air ride suspension, full size rear entry doors, 7000kw generator, tool boxes, headache racks, all the windows you want, in-motion satellite TV, turbo wing air foils, roof air-conditioners and these are just a few of the options!

Sizes range up to 180 inches plus in length. Seamless fiberglass roof and smooth gel-coat walls eliminate leaks and provide a rivetless, aerodynamic surface that will not corrode like aluminum and a waterproof floor that can be fully enclosed with additional insulation.

**ICT**<sup>TM</sup>

**1-800-220-1858**

**TruckSleeper.com**

2840 North State Route 9 • LaGrange, Indiana 46781  
Exit 121 off Interstate 80 in Northern Indiana

year. From eliminating small aggravations like making the hot water heater into an automatic reset instead of a manual to meeting a customers request for a 'roll top desk' is what we are about."

The interior department is where the sleeper really comes alive. You watch as they mount some solid cherry cabinets in one sleeper. In another, they are installing a mirrored ceiling with indirect lighting. In a third, you see a unit being insulated with every square inch of wall and ceiling being covered. Every sleeper is different and they all have something different in them. We particularly liked the one piece fiberglass shower with a real china flushing toilet and the HDTV on a hinged panel allowing you complete access to the unit and additional storage space for DVD's or tapes.

Then finally you enter the mounting department, where they install the sleeper on the truck. Here you see them connecting the blue 'high-miler' heater hose to the under-bunk heat and A/C unit. Woody, formerly the plant manager and now in sales, is there looking over a generator installation. Watch out for him as he is non-stop fun. We talk for a while and he leaves us laughing at his observations about truckers, life and ICT.

As you come back to the show room, your sales rep, Bonnie Amaden, takes you into their design center. Wow! After the tour, you knew you had some decisions to make but look at all the different colors and materials. There must be several hundred counter top colors, fifty different linoleum floor samples, stacks of wood flooring choices, a myriad of vinyl colors and much, much more. It's almost overwhelming. Bonnie makes it easy. She says out some logical combinations and says, "My job is to make the customers dream come true. I do a little detective work to determine what they like and want. The rest is easy with all the choices ICT can offer."



We also visit with the engineering department. They draw a layout that includes everything we've asked for, drawn to size and showing every detail. With the drawing and the written quote that shows every item listed line by line in hand, we walk away with a complete understanding of what our sleeper will have in it, the colors and combinations we chose and a very comfortable feeling about doing business with ICT. It's like Mike Baxley, the General Manager said, "We want our customers to feel like they are joining our ICT Family. Most of our business is with repeat customers who come back after four or five years and buy another sleeper from us. Sometimes they will purchase five or six sleepers from ICT before they retire."

As we are walking out, we pass through the service department. Here to our surprise are not only ICT sleepers but those of competitors like ARI and Double Eagle. We ask Woody what is going on. He said, "We repair any make of sleeper including OEM bunks. If you want custom, we are the place to go no matter what brand you have."

ICT is located in LaGrange, Indiana just off exit 121 on the Interstate 80/90 toll road across the top of the state. They can be reached via their website at [Trucksleeper.com](http://Trucksleeper.com) or give them a call at 800-800-3244. n

A large, stylized advertisement for 1-800-DRIVERS. The background is a pixelated, digital-style graphic. A large white hand cursor is clicking on a red and black pixelated square. Below this, the text "CALL US OR CLICK US!" is written in large, bold, red letters. Underneath that, the website "www.800drivers.com" is written in blue. At the bottom, the "1-800-DRIVERS" logo is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below the logo, it says "The 24-hour JobLine" and "A Product of Road Watch America". To the right of the logo, there is a small circular logo for "The Most American SUPERSTAR" and the text "Proud Sponsor of Small American Superstars!". On the far right edge, there is a vertical copyright notice: "©drivingforcemag.com".