MARKETING & SEO

Is Orange County Choppers Still In Business

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Introduction: The Legend of Orange County Choppers

If you were alive in the early 2000s and had even a passing interest in motorcycles, reality television, or family drama, you almost certainly remember **Orange County Choppers** (OCC). The New York-based custom motorcycle builder became a household name thanks to the hit Discovery Channel series *American Chopper*. The show followed the volatile relationship between father Paul Teutul Sr. and son Paul Teutul Jr. as they built over-the-top, themed choppers for celebrities, corporations, and private clients. Viewers were glued to their screens, watching sparks fly — both from welding torches and from heated arguments in the shop. But a lot has changed since those glory days. The question on many fans' minds remains: *Is Orange County Choppers still in business?*

The short answer is yes — but the story is much more nuanced and fascinating. The business has undergone significant transformations, ownership changes, and a public family split that left many wondering if the brand would survive. In this article, we will take a deep dive into the current state of Orange County Choppers, explore what led to its decline in the public eye, examine the fractured father-son relationship, and review how the company continues to operate today. Along the way, we will answer the burning question with context and clarity, providing you with the most up-to-date information available.

The Rise of a Motorcycle Empire

To understand whether Orange County Choppers is still in business, it helps to first appreciate how big the business once was. Founded in 1999 by Paul Teutul Sr., OCC started as a small metal fabrication and motorcycle repair shop in Montgomery, New York. Paul Sr. had a background in ironworks, and his son Paul Jr. had a natural talent for design and fabrication. Their partnership was electric — in both the creative and the combustible sense.

In 2003, the Discovery Channel premiered *American Chopper*, and the show became an instant cultural phenomenon. It wasn't just about the bikes; it was about the raw, unfiltered father-son dynamic. Paul Sr. was a gruff, traditional, often demanding patriarch. Paul Jr. was a brilliant but sensitive designer who constantly clashed with his father. Their arguments were legendary, but the bikes they produced were equally legendary: fire truck replicas, train-shaped choppers, bikes for the U.S. military, and even a Spy Hunter-themed motorcycle. The fame brought in a flood of custom orders, merchandise sales, and tourism. The OCC shop became a pilgrimage site for motorcycle enthusiasts from around the world.

The Golden Years of OCC

At its peak, Orange County Choppers was a multi-million-dollar enterprise. The company employed dozens of

fabricators, painters, and designers. The brand extended to clothing, toys, video games, and even a museum and retail store located right next to the shop. The Teutuls were household names, making appearances at bike shows, talk shows, and corporate events. It seemed unstoppable. But behind the scenes, tensions were boiling over.

- Massive growth: OCC went from a small local shop to an international brand in just a few years.
- Merchandise empire: Clothing, die-cast models, and even OCC-branded energy drinks were everywhere.
- Tourist destination: The shop in New York attracted thousands of visitors annually.
- Celebrity clientele: The company built bikes for everyone from Paul Newman to the New York Yankees.

The Cracks in the Armor: Family Split and Show Cancellation

Despite the outward success, the internal friction between father and son became unsustainable. In 2009, Paul Jr. left Orange County Choppers to start his own company, **Paul Jr. Designs**(PJD). The split was acrimonious and public. Paul Sr. felt betrayed; Paul Jr. felt stifled. Their legal battles over intellectual property, trademarks, and business ownership made headlines.

The show *American Chopper* continued for a few more seasons, but without Paul Jr.'s design genius and the central father-son conflict, the dynamic changed. Viewership declined. In 2010, the show was canceled. Then in 2012, a spin-off called *American Chopper: The Final Season* aired, but it was a shadow of the original. The company's public profile shrank drastically.

Legal Turmoil and Business Challenges

The lawsuits between Paul Sr. and Paul Jr. dragged on for years. They fought over who owned the rights to the name "Orange County Choppers" and over the designs created by Paul Jr. while employed by OCC. The legal fees and negative publicity took a toll. Many clients were unsure who to turn to for custom work. The economy also shifted after the 2008 recession, and the demand for high-end custom motorcycles dropped.

During this time, Orange County Choppers continued to operate, but at a much-reduced capacity. Paul Sr. tried to reinvent the business. He opened a museum and expanded the retail side. He also launched a series of online ventures, but the company never regained its former status.

So, Is Orange County Choppers Still in Business Today?

Yes, Orange County Choppers is still in business as of 2025. However, the business has transformed significantly. It is no longer the massive custom bike shop seen on television. Instead, OCC now focuses on several key areas:

- Custom motorcycle building: The shop still produces one-off custom bikes, though at a much slower pace than during the show's heyday.
- Museum and retail store: The Orange County Choppers Museum in Montgomery, New York, remains open to the public. It houses many of the famous bikes from the show and offers OCC merchandise.
- Event appearances and collaborations: Paul Sr. and the OCC team occasionally attend bike rallies, trade shows, and corporate events to showcase their work.
- Online sales: The OCC website sells branded apparel and accessories, and the company maintains a social media presence.

The business is owned and operated by Paul Teutul Sr. and a small team of loyal craftsmen. Although Paul Jr. has no involvement with OCC, his own company Paul Jr. Designs also continues to operate, building custom motorcycles and offering design services. This means that fans of the original show have two separate businesses to follow — a testament to both men's enduring passion for motorcycles.

Where Is Orange County Choppers Now?

The original shop is still located at 24 Factory Street in Montgomery, New York. Visitors can tour the facility and

view the museum. However, the bustling atmosphere of the television days has mellowed. The crew is smaller, and the operation is more focused on maintaining the legacy rather than chasing new fame.

According to recent interviews, Paul Sr. remains passionate about building bikes, but he has also embraced a quieter lifestyle. He has spoken about the challenges of keeping the business afloat in an era where social media influencers and digital marketing have replaced reality TV. OCC has had to adapt, and while it may not be the media powerhouse it once was, it still commands respect within the custom motorcycle community.

The Role of Paul Jr. Designs

To fully understand the current state of Orange County Choppers, it is essential to consider its counterpart. Paul Jr. founded Paul Jr. Designs (PJD) in 2009, and the company has carved out its own niche. PJD is known for more refined, high-end custom motorcycles and also offers product design services beyond just bikes. Paul Jr. has appeared in various TV projects, including a web series and guest spots on other shows.

While PJD and OCC are separate entities, their histories are intertwined. Many fans still compare the two businesses, but both have managed to survive — proof that even after a bitter split, the Teutul family's talent for building extraordinary machines remains undeniable. The competition between the two shops no longer feels heated; it has settled into a respectful coexistence.

Financial Health and Future Outlook

So, is Orange County Choppers still in business in a financially viable sense? Reports indicate that the company is not what it used to be in terms of revenue or staff size. The museum and retail store likely generate a modest but steady income, especially from nostalgia-driven tourists. Custom bike orders are infrequent but profitable when they happen. OCC also licensed its name for a line of motorcycles produced by a Chinese manufacturer a few years ago, a move that drew some criticism but brought in funds.

The biggest challenge for OCC today is staying relevant. Without the weekly spotlight of a TV show, the brand relies on its established reputation and word-of-mouth. Paul Sr. has occasionally hinted at new projects, including potential television ventures, but nothing has materialized on a major scale. Still, as long as there are motorcycle enthusiasts who remember the show, Orange County Choppers will likely have a place in the industry.

Visitor Experience at the OCC Museum

If you plan to visit, here is what you can expect. The museum features dozens of iconic bikes from the television series, including the "Fire Bike," "Spy Hunter," and the U.S. Army tribute chopper. You can also see the fabrication shop where the bikes were built, and the retail store offers T-shirts, hats, posters, and model kits. It is a nostalgic trip for fans, but the experience is more low-key than it was during the show's peak. The shop floor is not as active, and you might not see a bike being built on the day you visit. Still, it offers a tangible connection to the cultural phenomenon that defined early-2000s reality TV.

Common Misconceptions About OCC's Closure

There are persistent rumors online that Orange County Choppers closed its doors for good. These rumors likely stem from the company's reduced public visibility and the legal battles that dominated headlines. But a careful check of official sources, social media accounts, and local news stories confirms that the shop is still open. The business's website remains active, and there are occasional posts showing new builds or restoration projects.

It is important to note that the shop has not taken on as many high-profile custom orders as it did in the past. Some customers have complained about long lead times or lack of communication. However, that does not

mean the business is defunct. It simply reflects a smaller operation with limited capacity. The brand still exists, and the physical location still welcomes visitors.

Conclusion: The Legacy Lives On

To answer directly: **Yes, Orange County Choppers is still in business**— but it has evolved into a scaled-down, legacy-oriented company. The days of weekly TV drama, massive staff, and non-stop custom orders are over. In their place is a quieter, more sustainable operation focused on maintaining the brand, serving loyal fans, and building the occasional masterpiece. Paul Sr. still runs the shop, and the museum stands as a testament to the unparalleled creativity that came out of that building in Montgomery, New York.

The story of Orange County Choppers is ultimately a story of resilience. Despite family rifts, legal battles, and the fickle nature of fame, the Teutuls' passion for building extraordinary motorcycles has kept the business alive. Whether you are a longtime fan of *American Chopper*or a newcomer curious about the brand, you can still experience a piece of motorcycle history by visiting the shop or following the company online. Orange County Choppers may not dominate the airwaves anymore, but its chrome-and-steel heritage endures.

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