

Secure Your Load
for a Safer Road!
It's the Law!



What is a Secured Load?

A load is secure when nothing can slide, shift, fall or sift onto the roadway or become airborne.

To Secure Your load:

- Tie down using rope, netting, straps or chains. Securely fasten large items directly to your vehicle. Make sure any covering is securely tied down.
- Put lighter items lower and place heavier items on top to help keep them in place, and secure the heavy items directly to your vehicle.
- Cover your load with a tarp. Covering your load with a tarp and securely fastening the tarp to the vehicle is good way to ensure your load is secure.
- Don't overload your vehicle.
- Double-check your load is secure.

Under North Carolina law, it is illegal to haul an improperly secured load. Penalties for littering include a fine of up to \$2,000, community service and one point on a driver's license, if convicted.

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What is an Unsecured Load?

An unsecured load has not been fastened in or attached to the vehicle with tarps, rope, straps, netting or chains, so as to prevent any part of the load or the covering from becoming loose, detached or leaving the vehicle while the vehicle is moving. Between 2011 and 2014, over 2,000 crashes, 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths resulted from debris.

"But I'm just going a short way, and I won't be driving fast."

Even if you are driving slowly for just a couple of blocks, you are still required to secure your load. The law is clear: every vehicle that travels on every publicly maintained road must have a secured load. The requirement to secure loads is North Carolina Code - General Statutes §20-116. Size of vehicles and loads. (g)(1) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless the vehicle is constructed and loaded to prevent any of its load from falling, blowing, dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom, and the vehicle shall not contain any holes, cracks or openings through which any of its load may escape.

"But what I'm hauling is so heavy it couldn't possibly fall out."

Just because you can't imagine it happening doesn't mean it hasn't happened. Each year, heavy items such as large truck tires, spools of wire and large pieces of wood fall from vehicles and end up on our roadways creating hazards for motorists. Take the time to always secure your load.

"But my load is below the top of the truck bed."

Even with a small load, items can shift and become loose or airborne. Don't risk it – secure your load.