

Secure Your Load for Safer Roads. It's The Law.



California law requires all vehicles to secure their loads before getting on the road.

Even at low speeds, **unsecured items pose a danger** on the road. An unsecure load can result in a ticket of more than **\$200** or even worse, cause a serious or **deadly** crash. According to the US Department of Transportation, an object weighing **just 20 pounds** that falls out of a vehicle traveling 55 MPH can hit a vehicle with the **impact of half a ton.**

Whether it's a short trip, going slow or hauling items that seem heavy enough to stay put, **always secure your load** to keep yourself and others safe. **Every trip, every time.**



TIPS FOR SECURE LOADS:



STOCK UP – keep nets, tarps, ropes, bungee cords, or straps in your truck to make sure you always have what you need to keep items secure.



FOLLOW THROUGH – run straps through and around large items like ladders, furniture, and mattresses.



STRAP DOWN – securely fasten all large items to your vehicle, including tarps and covers.



TIDY UP – remove any loose trash from your truck or trailer that may blow out.



SEAL TIGHT AND COVER – any boxes, bags and garbage cans should be tightly closed and covered to keep items from spilling and blowing away.



CHECK REGULARLY – nothing should slide, shift, or fall out. If you hear whipping or rattling sounds, stop and park at a safe location to check your load.



GET ORGANIZED – lay tall items flat and put lighter cargo at the bottom so heavier objects hold them down.



CONSIDERATIONS – ask yourself if your family would be comfortable and safe driving behind you. Will your load stay secure if you brake hard, hit a bump, turn a corner, or go uphill?

If you see a dangerous unsecured load – loose tools, overflowing materials or barely strapped cargo – or see something fall off a vehicle, call 911.

Sources: secureloadwa.org, Washington State Patrol, and NHTSA