



## CALL 911 IF YOU SEE AN UNSECURED LOAD

If you see a dangerous unsecured load while driving, or you see something fall off a vehicle that could cause a crash, **safely pull over and call 911.**



Learn more about securing loads at  
**[SecureLoadsWA.org](https://SecureLoadsWA.org)**

### ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6900 or email at [SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/accessibility](https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility). For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

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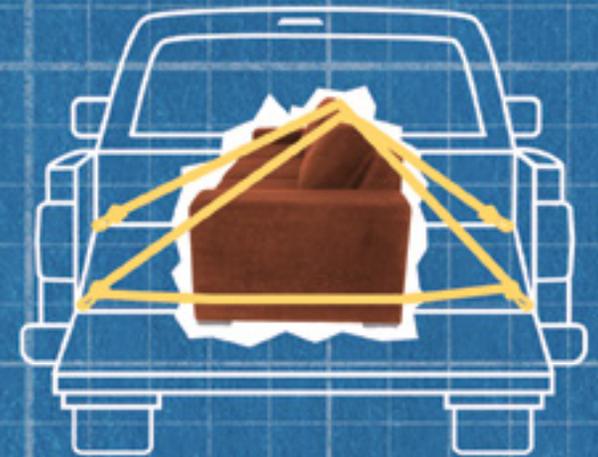


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Unsecured loads cause **300 crashes a year** in Washington and contribute to up to **40% of roadside litter.**

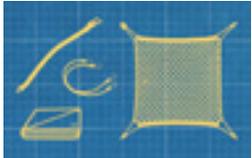


## Secure Your Load for Safer Roads



## TIPS FOR SECURED LOADS

Two out of three drivers always secure their loads, but we need everyone to do their part.



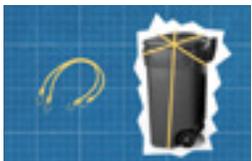
### STOCK UP

Keep cargo nets, tarps, ropes, bungee cords, or straps in your truck to make sure you always have what you need to secure your cargo. You may need tie down hooks or eye bolts on your vehicle as well.



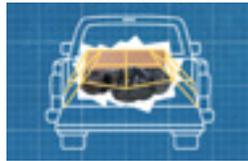
### STRAP DOWN

Securely fasten all large items directly to your vehicle, including tarps and covers.



### SEAL TIGHT AND COVER

Make sure boxes, bags, and garbage cans are tightly closed and strapped down or covered to keep contents from blowing away.



### GET ORGANIZED

Lay tall items flat and put lighter cargo at the bottom of the load so heavier objects can hold them down. Make sure not to overload.



### FOLLOW THROUGH

Run straps through and around items – especially large items like hand trucks, ladders, furniture, and mattresses.



### TIDY UP

Remove any loose pieces of trash from your truck, trailer, or boat that could blow out while driving.



### CHECK REGULARLY

Nothing you're hauling should be able to slide, shift, or fall out. If you hear whipping or rattling sounds while driving, stop in a safe place and check your cargo.

## UNSECURED LOADS = BIG FINES

Driving with an unsecured vehicle load is against the law in Washington, with fines up to \$5,000. If something falls out or injures someone, you could face jail time too. Some local jurisdictions have stricter laws and may charge an unsecured load fee at their facilities.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- Would I feel my family was safe if they were driving behind me?
- Will my load stay secure if I have to brake suddenly, hit a bump, turn a corner, or go uphill?
- Is there any chance of debris falling or blowing out of my vehicle?
- If it rains, will any of my cargo break down?
- Did I double-check my load to make sure it's secure?