HOW TO: Secure Your Load for Safer Roads

Unsecured loads cause 300 crashes in Washington every year and contribute to roadside litter – you can help change that.

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.

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.

SecureLoadsWA.org