

## Why should I secure my Load?

### It prevents injuries and saves lives.

- It is estimated that road litter causes 25,000 accidents in North America each year, nearly 100 of which are fatal.
- On average, road debris causes around 400 accidents each year on Washington State highways.

### It prevents litter.

- More than 12 million pounds of litter comes from vehicles each year in Washington State.
- Around 40% of litter on highways comes from unsecured loads.

### It is the law.

- It is illegal to transport solid waste in the city of Spokane Valley unless the load is covered or secured.
- Around 40% of the litter-related violations issued by Washington State Patrol in 2007 were for failure to secure a load; 21% were issued for debris escaping from those loads.

### It will cost you money if you don't.

- If you are caught driving with an unsecured or uncovered load in the city of Spokane Valley, you may face a **\$50 fine**.
- If any items spill or leak from an unsecured or uncovered load you may be subject to **additional littering penalties**.

Source: Chapter 7.10 SVMC and Washington State Department of Ecology

**WE ARE OPEN**  
Seven days a week from 7:30am to 5:00pm  
**WHEN WE ARE CLOSED**  
New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day



2405 N. UNIVERSITY RD. SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206  
509.924.5678



[spokanevalley.org/solidwaste](http://spokanevalley.org/solidwaste) 



City of Spokane Valley  
10210 E. Sprague Avenue  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
[www.spokanevalley.org](http://www.spokanevalley.org)  
509-720-5000  
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**Secure  
Your Load  
for  
Safer Roads**

A guide for making sure your solid waste loads are secured.



## What is an Unsecured Load?

An unsecured load is one that has not been fastened or attached to the vehicle with tarps, rope, straps, netting, chains, or by other means to prevent any part of the load or the covering from becoming loose or detached, or coming out of the vehicle while the vehicle is moving.



## How do I secure a load?

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

There are many options for securing or covering your load.

- **Cover** your load with a tarp and then securely fasten the tarp to the vehicle.
- **Tie items** directly to your vehicle using rope, netting, straps, or chains. Be sure any covering is securely tied down.
- **Put lighter items at the bottom and put heavier items on top**, then secure the heavier items to your vehicle.
- **Do not overload** your vehicle.
- **Double-check** and be certain that your load is secure.

## Is your load secure?

- Is there any chance of debris or cargo falling or blowing out of your vehicle?
- What would happen to your load if you had to brake suddenly, hit a bump, or if another vehicle hit yours?
- Would you want your loaded vehicle driving though your neighborhood?
- Would you feel safe if you were driving behind your vehicle?

If you can answer the questions above positively, you should be ready to go!

## Biomedical or hazardous waste penalty and cleanup:

- It is illegal in Spokane Valley to **transport biomedical or hazardous waste** in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger people or property and may be subject to a \$1,000 fine and/or by imprisonment of up to 90 days.
- Any person who transports solid waste or biomedical/hazardous waste in a prohibited manner will be responsible for the **cleanup and removal** of waste in the event of any spills or leaks.

## Don't make these mistakes:

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

The law is clear—every vehicle carrying a load while traveling on any publicly maintained road must have a secured load.

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

Each year, heavy items such as large 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.**



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