

Loads That Must be Secured

Secure the load with enough cargo net, ropes, chains, straps, and/or bungee cords so the load cannot shift, move, or fall out.

- Garbage cans must be secured to the vehicle or trailer bed with lids fastened to the container, or they must be covered with a cargo net or tarp.
- Sheets of plywood, OSB, drywall, or sheet metal must be tied down.
- Cardboard boxes must be tied down or covered with a net.
- Each large item, such as furniture, appliances, mattresses or box springs, etc., must be tied to the vehicle.
- Yard waste without leaves must be tied down.
- Garbage in bags must be completely covered with netting or tarp.
- Liquids, such as motor oil and antifreeze for recycling, must be in closed containers that are tied to the vehicle or packed so that they cannot shift or fall over.

Loads That Must Be Covered and Secured

Cover the load completely with a tarp. The tarp must be tied to the vehicle to secure the load. A tarp that is open at the back, sides, front or top is not secured.

- Loads with loose plastic bags or paper must be covered with a tarp.
- Construction or demolition debris must be covered with a tarp. Covering the load with a sheet of plywood that is secured to the vehicle is acceptable if no part of the load, such as lightweight material, can blow or fall out.
- Roofing materials must be covered with a tarp.
- Lightweight materials visible to attendant, like paper, loose plastic bags or containers, buckets, etc, must be covered with a tarp.
- Garbage in bags must be covered with a net or a tarp.
- Yard waste with leaves or other loose lightweight debris must be covered with a tarp.
- Loose garbage must be covered with a tarp.
- Recyclable materials such as cans, bottles and paper products in open containers must be covered with a tarp.



Questions?

Kitsap County Public Works
The Open Line

360-337-5777 or www.kitsapgov.com/sw



Secure Your Load



RCW 46.61.655: "No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any public highway unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom".

Washington State law allows these fines:

- Failure to secure load - first degree (causing bodily harm to another) - Up to \$5000 and/or up to 1 year in jail (gross misdemeanor);
- Failure to secure load - second degree (causing damage to property of another) - Up to \$1000 and/or up to 90 days in jail (misdemeanor);
- Driving with unsecured load - traffic infraction - \$194.

A \$10 fee is charged on unsecured loads at all Kitsap County solid waste disposal facilities (KC282-2002).

Examples Of Secured Load



Netting, straps, rope, chain, and bungee cord can be used to tie each large item to the vehicle. Since there is nothing in the load that can blow out, a cover is not needed.



The garbage can is secured to truck with bungee cord. Lid is secured to the bottom. Cardboard is secured with bungee cord.

Examples Of Covered And Secured Load



Tarp covers the entire load and is well tied to the vehicle.



Tarp covers the entire load and is well tied to trailer.

Examples Of Inadequately Secured Loads

Tie downs are missing or inadequate. Vehicle is overloaded. Top, sides and back of load are not secure. Debris can fall or fly out of moving vehicle. Load should be repacked and covered with tarp and/or a cargo net. Secure cover to the vehicle bed.



Some Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Is there any chance of debris falling (or blowing) out of my vehicle?
2. Would I feel safe if I were driving behind my vehicle?
3. Would I want my loaded vehicle driving through my neighborhood?
4. What would happen to my load if I had to brake suddenly or if I hit a bump?
5. Do I need to drive slower than I normally do?
6. Is my load secured on top, on the sides, and in back?
7. Did I double-check my load to make sure it is secured?