

Tarp It, or Get Ticketed!

Careless drivers could wind up picking up their own litter... wearing an orange jump suit. It's a misdemeanor under Georgia law to haul an improperly secured load. Penalties may reach one year in prison, a \$1,000 fine, or both.

OCGA 40-6-254: No person shall operate any motor vehicle with a load on or in such vehicle unless the load... is adequately secured to prevent the dropping or shifting of the load onto the roadway. Any person who operates a vehicle in violation of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

A survey conducted by the Georgia Department of Transportation, Department of Community Affairs, and Keep Georgia Beautiful found 16% of the *littering* tickets written in 2000 were under the unsecured loads law. When surveyed by Georgia DOT, 77% of Georgia motorists said they have seen something blow out of a vehicle onto the road.

Do Your Part... Secure Your Load



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Keep it in Your Bed... Secure Your Load

Georgia taxpayers spend millions of dollars every year to remove trash that blows from truck beds. Transporting unsecured loads isn't just scandalous, it's illegal!



Put a Lid on It!

Trucks carrying unsecured loads send litter onto the Peach State's roads every day. The Georgia Department of Transportation has spent \$11 million in a single year picking up roadside litter and those costs continue to rise. We've all seen trash blowing from the back of garbage trucks, but private pickup truck owners are also partly to blame. Truck owners often use their truck beds as mobile garbage cans. Sure it's handy, but the trash doesn't always stay put. At highway speeds, with vehicles passing and bumpy roads, empty containers and other bits of trash easily become airborne and turn into litter. Weekend warriors hauling unsecured loads of construction debris also contribute to our litter problem.



Driving with an unsecured load can destroy more than scenery. The Governor's Office of Highway Safety reports that in 2000, roadway debris was a contributing factor in five motorist deaths. Perhaps this is why officers reported that three out of four tickets they issue for unsecured loads are issued with motorist safety in mind.

Lock That Load!

All of us share a responsibility to Keep Georgia Beautiful. You may not intentionally litter, but if you're not securing the items in your pickup truck, they could easily become litter.

Take the time to secure your load.



Don't rely on the weight of items to keep them in your truck. Bumps, turns and sudden stops can dislodge even heavy items like furniture, tools, and equipment.



Consider buying a cover if you don't often haul large bulky items in your truck. Not only do covers improve fuel economy and keep your goods dry, they keep material in the bed, keep thieves out, and look good doing it.



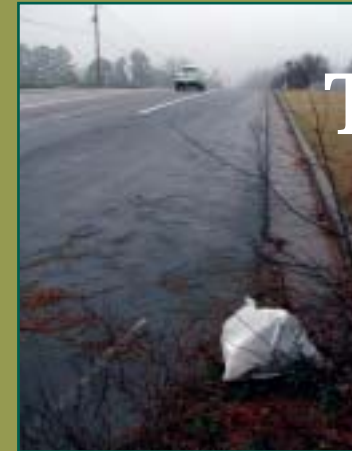
All trash or recyclables should be in sturdy bags and covered by a strong tarp or cargo netting. If you often throw trash into your truck bed, secure a 5-gallon bucket with a lid in a corner of the bed, as a trash can. Or, throw trash into the tool box.

It doesn't take much time, effort, or money to make sure your load is properly secured.

If You Throw It Here,



You're Throwing It Out There!



Commercial garbage and recycling haulers aren't to blame for all of the trash that turns into litter. In fact, most in the industry say the small haulers, especially weekend warriors cleaning out the garage or hauling home remodeling debris share the responsibility. It doesn't take long to secure a tarp or cargo netting over a pickup truck bed and tarps can be bought for under \$20, including tie-downs, at most home improvement or automotive stores.