

Unsecured Load Unsafe Road



At highway speeds, even small debris can be deadly.

What is an unsecured load?

Materials being transported on the back of vehicles such as utes, trailers and trucks that are not completely covered or secured can fly off whilst driving and become litter.

Why should I care?

- Unsecured loads can pose major safety risks to other drivers and cyclists.
- Litter from unsecured loads is a hazard that can cause fishtailing and damage such as a flat tyre or even a traffic accident with injury or death.
- At highway speeds, even small debris can be deadly.
- The most common ways that road debris contributes to accidents is by either causing a driver to lose control of his vehicle, or by being launched by the tyres of a car into the windshield of another vehicle.
- If items on the roadway are particularly large, they can necessitate sudden braking or require drivers to change lanes, increasing the risk of a collision.
- Litter on our roads can enter the environment where it impacts on flora and fauna.
- Roadside litter has a high chance of entering the stormwater system where it can cause damage to local waterways, flooding and blockage of drainage systems and threats to areas such as swimming beaches and urban wetlands where water is discharged.
- We must significantly reduce the amount of litter in our environment to protect the health, safety and visual quality of the environment, people and wildlife.

Littering is illegal

A load that hasn't been secured properly, including sand, soil and small debris, which leaves a vehicle and becomes litter is illegal under the *Litter Act 1979*. You can be fined \$200 on the spot.

*Tie down before
you take off!*

What you can do to help reduce litter from unsecured loads

- When transporting any materials, always tie down your load before you take off.
- Cover garden refuse with a tarpaulin or trailer net.
- Restrain furniture and white goods with good quality straps.
- Use webbing or straps to restrain cardboard boxes.
- Don't carry loose tools in the back – use a restrained toolbox.
- Larger tools (e.g. garden tools like shovels) should be restrained by ropes, straps or a trailer net if they are not adequately contained by the body.
- When carrying loads, periodically inspect your vehicle to make sure it is safe and secure.
- If you are someone who does the right thing, register as a litter reporter and report littering from unsecured loads.

**For more information, or to
report an unsecured load
visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au/reportlittering**

