

# PROPERLY SECURE YOUR LOAD **IT'S THE LAW**

## Why should you secure your load ?

- **It's the law.** California State Vehicle Code requires loads be properly covered, section 23115(a).
- **It saves lives.** Items can fall out of vehicles leading to traffic accidents.
- **It's litter.** Litter blows out of truck beds creating unsightly eyesores and can end up in local waterways and harm wildlife.
- **It costs you money.** Fines for littering go up to \$1,000. Failure to properly cover a load can result in fines starting at \$109. The California Department of Transportation, Division of Maintenance spends a total of approximately \$41 million\* tax dollars on litter removal.

In addition, a fee is charged on uncovered loads at all Sonoma County Refuse Disposal Sites (Sec. 22-6 a).

**Use tarps, bungee cords, netting, straps or rope.**

**Put lighter weight items at the bottom of the load.**

**Tie larger items directly to your vehicle.**

**Don't overload your vehicle.**

## Tips for securing your load



## Some questions to ask when securing your load ?

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. Am I regularly checking my load in the mirror while driving? \*\*



**Transporting  
unsecured loads is  
unsafe and illegal**

## California State Vehicle Code, Section 23115(a), requires loads to be properly covered.

23115(a). No vehicle transporting garbage, swill, used cans or bottles, waste papers, waste cardboard, ashes, refuse, trash, or rubbish, or any noisome, nauseous, or offensive matter, or anything being transported for disposal or recycling shall be driven or moved upon any highway unless the load is totally covered in a manner that will prevent the load or any part of the load from spilling or falling from the vehicle.

**Failure to properly cover a load can result in fines starting at \$109.**



*This message is sponsored by the Russian River Watershed Association.*  
[www.rrwatershed.org](http://www.rrwatershed.org)

\* Litter removal costs provided by Caltrans Maintenance Program.

\*\* Text credit: Kitsap County, Washington Public Works Department.

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