

Put a Lid on It!

Trucks carrying unsecured loads dump litter onto the Peach State's roads every day. The Georgia Department of Transportation has spent \$14 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 and other items also contribute to our litter problem.



An unsecured item fell out of this truck at 70 mph....

Bounced once and hit the windshield of this car in the adjacent lane.



Driving with an unsecured load can destroy more than scenery. The Governor's Office of Highway Safety reports that roadway debris contributes to fatalities each year. 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 throw trash into your truck bed, secure a 5-gallon bucket with a lid in a corner of the bed, as a trash can.

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. Tarps can be bought for under \$20, including tie-downs, at most home improvement or automotive stores.