

Secure Your Load

Georgia taxpayers spend millions of dollars every year to remove trash that originates from truck beds and trailers. Follow the law to keep our state clean, green, and beautiful.



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Consider our roadsides before you litter.

#reconsiderlitter
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Put a Lid On It

Did you know that the Georgia Department of Transportation recently spent \$10 million in a single year cleaning up roadside litter? Trash can come from commercial haulers or private vehicles carrying construction debris or other large items. You might even see people using truck beds or trailers as mobile garbage bins. Unfortunately, the trash doesn't always stay put. At highway speeds, empty containers and other bits of debris can easily become airborne. This harms our environment, wildlife, and local economies. (Studies show that blight negatively impacts the relocating decisions of business owners and potential residents.) Roadway debris can even contribute to fatalities. Please take time to secure your load and avoid these unintended consequences. It doesn't take much time, effort, or money.

Lock That Load

We all share a responsibility to keep our roadsides free of litter. If you properly secure your load, you won't need to worry about inadvertently contributing to the debris. Need some tips?

- Don't rely on the weight of items to keep them safe. 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. They improve fuel economy, keep goods dry, and ensure items stay secured.
- Put all trash and recyclables in sturdy bags and cover them with a tarp or cargo netting. If you tend to accumulate smaller items on a regular basis, invest in a five-gallon bucket with a lid to keep them in place until you can dispose of them properly.

Tarp It or Get Ticketed

Under Georgia's Litter Law, anything leaving a vehicle, intentional or not, counts as litter and can result in a citation. An arresting officer may impound a vehicle if the item(s) littered exceed 10 pounds or 15 cubic feet, and the driver of the vehicle can be fined up to \$5,000 or spend up to 12 months in jail.

OCGA 40-6-248: 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.

You can purchase a tarp or cargo netting for under \$20, including tie-downs, at most home improvement or automotive stores.

