

Secure it!

Careless drivers could wind up picking up their own litter. It's illegal under North Carolina law to haul an improperly secured load. Penalties for littering include up to a \$2,000 fine, community service work and one point on a motorist's driver license upon conviction.

Section 1. G.S. 14-399

When litter is blown, scattered, spilled, thrown or placed from a vehicle or watercraft, the operator thereof shall be presumed to have committed this offense.

“Don't trash our highways! Debris that is tossed or falls from your vehicle becomes a safety hazard to other drivers. Make sure your loads are secure and that no loose trash can fly out of your open window or your truck bed. Littering is a violation of state law that the Highway Patrol takes seriously.”

*Col. Walter J. Wilson, Jr.
N.C. State Highway Patrol*



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Keep it in Your Bed... Secure Your Load

North Carolina taxpayers spend millions of dollars every year to remove trash that blows from truck beds. Transporting unsecured loads is unsafe and illegal.



Put a Lid on It!

The N.C. Department of Transportation spent \$16 million last year picking up litter from the state's roadsides.

Loads must be properly secured with a cargo net or tarp. Otherwise, debris can blow or be tossed out due to wind drafts from higher travel speeds.



Nationwide, about 25,000 accidents can be attributed to roadway debris annually.

The N.C. State Highway Patrol reports that two out of three tickets they issue for unsecured loads are issued with motorists' safety in mind.

Keep North Carolina's highways safe by securing loads to keep furniture, mattresses, appliances, empty containers, bags of garbage, fast food trash, construction materials, tools and other items off our state's roadsides.

Some information provided by the GA DOT Office of Environmental Management

Lock that load!

Citizens share a responsibility to keep North Carolina's roadways clean and green. Though you may not intentionally litter, if you do not secure the items in your truck bed, you are contributing to roadside litter.

Take the time to secure your load.

- Bumps, turns and sudden stops can dislodge improperly secured loads. Don't rely on an item's weight to keep it in place during travel.
- In addition to securing loads, pickup truck bed covers improve fuel economy as well as keep loads dry, clean and safe.
- Toolboxes and other built-in containers can be used to hold trash until it can be placed in a garbage can. Additionally, trash or recyclables can be placed in sturdy bags and covered with a tarp or cargo netting.



"In North Carolina, half of all litter is blown, not thrown."

Mecklenburg County Solid Waste and Recycling 08/29/2006

It doesn't take much time, effort or money to make sure your load is properly secured, but driving with an unsecured load can pose safety threats to you and other motorists.

If you throw it
Here,



You are throwing it



Here!



Help reduce roadside litter and increase safety by using tarps, cargo nets and tie-downs to secure loads.