

Secure It, or Get Ticketed!

These are the Florida Statutes that apply to loads on vehicles, littering, and dumping debris.

Florida Statute 316.520(2)

Loads on vehicles.

It is the duty of every owner and driver to prevent materials from falling, blowing, or in any way escaping from the vehicle. Covering and securing loads is required.

Florida Statute 316.525(1)

Requirements for vehicles hauling loads.

It is the duty of owners and drivers to fasten the load securely to the vehicle.

Florida Statute 403.413

Prohibiting littering and illegal dumping. (Florida Litter Law)

Fines and jail terms are determined by the amount of debris dumped. The maximum penalty for violating this provision is a \$5,000 fine and/or up to five years in jail.

Do Your Part...Secure Your Load!



Do You Remember These?

Driving with an unsecured load can impact a lot more than scenery. Roadway debris has been a contributing factor in accidents and motorists deaths statewide. Even here in Jacksonville, there have been motorists deaths caused by unsecured loads.

February 1999 – A ladder falls from a truck crossing the Buckman Bridge. Suddenly, a tractor-trailer behind the truck has to swerve to avoid the ladder in the road, colliding with another pickup truck with a man and woman inside. Their pickup plunges 40 feet into the river below, killing the Michigan couple. The driver whose ladder fell off and the tractor-trailer's driver are ticketed and face fines and penalties.

September 2003 – A driver is crossing the Shands Bridge when he suddenly slows down to avoid a ladder in the road. The cement truck behind him cannot stop in time and hits his vehicle, which careens over the side of the bridge, instantly killing the driver inside. The victim's family sues both the company whose truck dropped the ladder and the company that owns the cement truck.

**What do these news stories have in common?
All were caused by unsecured loads on trucks!**



Jacksoñville
Where Florida Begins.

Litter: It costs YOU.

Keep it in Your Vehicle Secure Your Load



Florida taxpayers spend millions of dollars every year to remove trash that escapes from truck beds and open car trunks. Transporting unsecured loads isn't just irresponsible, it's illegal!

Litter: It costs YOU.

Vehicles carrying unsecured loads drop trash onto Jacksonville's roads every day.

The City of Jacksonville spends over a **million dollars** in a single year simply collecting roadside litter. Studies show much of the trash cluttering our roadways escapes from recycling, garbage, service or pickup trucks. Vehicles hauling unsecured loads of construction debris also share the blame.

YOUR SAFETY

Driving with an unsecured load can destroy more than scenery. Roadway debris has been a contributing factor in several prominently-reported motorist deaths. In many instances, companies owning the trucks were sued, while the drivers received citations and even lost their licenses, and had to live with the knowledge they'd caused someone's death.

Take the time to secure your load.

- All trash or recyclables contained should be in sturdy bags or covered by a strong tarp.
- The tarp should be in good condition and tied down at multiple points. Strapping the tarp down at only one or two points will stretch and eventually tear it.
- On the return trip, make sure the bed of the truck is completely free of material that could escape. If not, clean out the truck completely or secure the tarp over the empty bed. A lot of litter comes from supposedly empty trucks.
- Carry extra tie-down straps so they can be replaced if they fail or, even better, before they fail. Additional ties may be needed if the tarp begins to tear.

YOUR REPUTATION

Commercial garbage and recycling haulers aren't to blame for all the trash that turns into litter. In fact, most in the industry say the small haulers, especially weekend warriors cleaning out their garages or hauling home remodeling debris or furniture, share the responsibility. It doesn't take long to secure a tarp over a pickup truck bed. Tarps cost about \$20, including tie-downs, at most home improvement or automotive stores. Well-meaning residents carrying recyclables in plastic grocery bags can prevent litter by using sturdier garbage bags that are less likely to fly out of truck beds. The lightweight plastic grocery bags can become airborne when empty and have a habit of polluting our environment.

Lock That Load!

Nothing gives your organization a bad reputation like litter streaming past your logo. It's bad for business, and it's bad for Jacksonville.

YOUR FUEL COST

Cash could be flying out the back of your truck along with all that trash! Some tarp manufacturers claim pickup drivers see a 10% gain in fuel economy by tarping their beds. Aerodynamic drag accounts for 65 percent of the energy needed to move a tractor-trailer at 70mph.

