Secure Your Load For Safer Roads

Snohomish County cares about the safety of its citizens, a cleaner environment and better use of our tax dollars. Several serious accidents in the Puget Sound area have been the result of debris flying off other vehicles. A properly secured load can mean the difference between life and death, and an environment to be proud of or littered with debris. Help us to be part of the solution, rather than the problem.

All loads arriving at any county solid waste facility shall be covered or secured so as to prevent any solid waste being transported from unintentionally falling or being blown out of the vehicle.

Properly Secured Loads

- **Tie down** with rope, bungee cords, netting, or straps. Tie large items directly to your vehicle.
- **Cover the load** securely with a sturdy plastic or canvas tarp or a net.
- **Lighter goes lower.** Put lighter weight things at the bottom of the load.
- **Don’t overload.** Keep material level with truck bed or trailer.
- **Always double-check your load.**

Fees Strictly Enforced

In accordance with state law (RCW 46.61.655/RCW 70A.200.1203) and county ordinance (SCC 7.41.042), fees are being strictly enforced for vehicles arriving at any Snohomish County solid waste or recycling facility with an unsecured load.

Solid Waste facility staff have been trained to identify improperly secured loads, and will determine when a fee will be charged. No warnings will be given for vehicles with improperly secured loads.

- Vehicles up to 8,000 lbs gross vehicle weight (passenger cars and pick-ups)—$5 fee
- Vehicles over 8,000 lbs gross vehicle weight—$10 fee

You may also be fined by local law enforcement if observed traveling on local and state roads with an unsecured load. State fines are currently $228 for transporting an unsecured load, and up to $5,000 and possibly jail time if an item falls off your vehicle and causes bodily injury. The fine for littering is $103 for something as small as a piece of paper and can go up to $5,000 for a bigger item such as a mattress or other piece of furniture.