



The Watertown Regional Landfill has noticed an increase in vehicles arriving with unsecured loads. This leads to debris being scattered along roads and ditches, which poses a safety risk for other motorists. The current policy at the landfill is to charge customers double if they arrive with an unsecured load.

### **Why does the Landfill impose a fee for unsecured loads?**

The fee for unsecured loads serves as a reminder that securing your load is required by state law. Additionally, ensuring that all loads are secure is a stipulation of the Landfill's permit from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

### **What is an unsecured load?**

An unsecured load refers to cargo that is not properly secured to a vehicle, making it prone to shifting, falling, or spilling during transit. Securing a load properly involves using appropriate restraints such as ropes, straps, nets, and tarps, ensuring the cargo is stable, immobile during transport, and cannot escape the vehicle.

*Please Note: Simply using a rollover tarp is insufficient; bungee cords and other side restraints are essential to ensuring the load and covering are securely attached to the vehicle.*

### **Does something have to escape for load to be considered unsecured?**

No, unsecured loads simply have to pose a risk of debris escaping. Legally, loads must be securely fastened or covered; otherwise, they are considered unsecured loads.

### **Why should you secure your load?**

- It prevents injuries and saves lives.
- It prevents litter.
- It will cost you time or money if you don't secure your load.

**A secured load will prevent any part of it or its covering from becoming loose or detached while the vehicle moves.**



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**Ask yourself the following questions:**

- Is there any chance of debris falling or blowing out of my vehicle?
- What would happen to my load if I had to brake suddenly or if I hit a bump?
- Do I need to drive slower than I normally do?
- Is my load secured at the back and on the sides AND top?
- Please remember that you share the road with other drivers.

**Tips to Secure Your Load**

**Cover your load with a tarp** and then securely fasten the tarp to the vehicle.

**Tie down** using rope, netting, straps, or chains.

**Tie large items** directly to your vehicle to prevent them from shifting or falling off.

**Secure covering** with bungee cords to prevent it from becoming loose or detached.

**Load properly:** Put lighter items lower and place heavier items on top to help keep them in place. Secure the heavy items to your vehicle.

**Avoid overloading** your vehicle or trailer to maintain stability and prevent accidents.

**Always double-check** that your load is secure before driving. Prevent accidents and fines!

***A Note from the Watertown Police Department:***

The Watertown Police Department will be increasing its presence on the roadways to and from the landfill to ensure compliance with landfill rules and state law. They seek voluntary compliance from the public to keep our community clean and safe. According to state law, any vehicle must be loaded to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking, or escaping. People transporting unsecured loads are subject to a \$132.50 citation.

*On behalf of the Watertown Regional Landfill, thank you for your cooperation in keeping our roads safe!*