

TOOLBOX TALK

Securing Loads

Equipment, tools, and material all need to be transported to set-up a new jobsite, relocate on an existing jobsite, or move between jobsites. Tools and equipment may need to be transported for security at the end of the workday. Whether they are simply tossed into the bed of your pick-up, or chained and bound to a transport lowboy, in one way or another all items to be transported must be secured for the road.

Following are guidelines for securing loads to prevent loss and keep them from becoming a road hazard:

- At highway speeds even large, relatively heavy articles may be blown out of an open pick-up bed. Secure any large items which may provide wind resistance, or “catch air” and be dislodged from pick-up beds with rope, straps, chain, bungee cords, etc.
- Tie-down methods used must provide adequate means to secure the load against movement during transit.
- Do not use straps which have broken stitching, are frayed, or show any signs of wear, damage, or deterioration.
- Any item which extends more than three feet beyond the body of your vehicle must be flagged with high visibility material.
- Use a tarp to cover numerous small articles or materials which cannot be enclosed in a tool box, compartment, etc. Tie the tarp down securely running your rope or straps all the way across the width of the tarp.
- When using bungee cords for tie-downs, make sure the cargo cannot shift and unclip the hook from the anchor point. Run the cord through the anchor and clip the cord back onto itself if possible.
- Before transporting equipment, ensure that any loose material is cleaned off; secure all wires, cables, and chains, check for tools or equipment left on frames, decks, or in hoppers.
- Equipment or material carried in a truck bed must also be secured from shifting or being thrown forward in a sudden stop.
- Do not place unsecured items on the rear window deck, or back seat of a vehicle; in a sudden stop or collision these items may strike the driver or passengers with extreme force.
- Do a walk around inspection before leaving to ensure that all items are put away and secured. Check fasteners, tie-downs, and hitches, and look for loose tools and materials.
- Ensure that compartment doors, tailgates, or cargo doors are fully latched.
- When transporting cargo long distances, check your cargo frequently to ensure that it has not shifted, and that it is still secure.

Cargo securement is extremely important to the safety of the driver, his or her vehicle and other vehicles using the road. Loads should be examined within the first 50 miles of initial transport and again at all following stops. All tie-downs, tarps, doors, hatches, blocks/chocks, straps/chains/binders, tires, placards, lights, etc. are to be verified as secure, meaning they cannot damage the cargo or come loose and fall off the vehicle.

When the article being tied down is not blocked or positioned to prevent forward movement, it must be secured as follows:

If the article is:	Then use at least:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 feet or shorter, AND • 1,100 pounds or lighter 	1 tie down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 feet or shorter, AND • Over 1,100 pounds 	2 tie downs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer than 5 feet but no more than 10 feet, not matter what the weight is 	2 tie downs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer than 10 feet 	2 tie downs, plus 1 additional tie down for every addition 10 feet or part thereof

When an article is blocked, braced, or immobilized to prevent forward movement, it must be secured by at least one tie down for every 10 feet of article length, or fraction thereof.

**REMEMBER TO NOMINATE YOUR SITE FOR THE SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM
“SAFETY SITE OF THE MONTH”**

Contact Jeff Barber, Jody Porterfield, or Dave Jakovina with your Safety Award nominations.

