



Load Restraint Information



LOAD SAFETY IS ROAD SAFETY - THE SAFE LOADING OF VEHICLES IS VITALLY IMPORTANT IN PREVENTING INJURY TO PEOPLE AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Why is load restraint important?

Unsecured loads such as household goods, building materials and green waste, pose a serious danger to other road users and the general public.

Every year, debris falling from unsecured loads causes road closures and disruptions, incurs thousands of dollars in damages to vehicles and property, and can be a major contributor to serious crashes.

It is an offence under WA transport laws if your load is not properly restrained and is at risk of falling from your vehicle.

“Both light vehicle drivers and heavy vehicle operators are responsible for proper and safe load restraint.”

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Effects of improperly restrained loads

- The collection of debris on the road causes congestion, especially on our freeways.
- Drivers swerve to avoid items that are falling or have fallen from vehicles which can cause them to lose control and result in additional damage.
- Unsecured objects may fall from vehicles on to other vehicles, pedestrians or cyclists and, at highway speeds can become deadly projectiles causing serious injury and death.
- Debris on the roads from unsecured loads can enter the environment where it impacts on flora and fauna

Did you know?

- A heavy load is just as likely to fall off as a light load. The same ‘g-forces’ are acting on both.
- Just because a load has been carried in a particular way a number of times, it does not mean it is properly restrained.
- There is a greater chance of losing a load when braking at low speed than at high speed, as it is easier for the brakes to ‘grab’ at low speed.

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- The security of your load, your life and the life of others relies on proper load restraint.
- Use a vehicle and suitable restraint equipment appropriate for the type of load you are carrying.
- Position the load correctly.
- Use good quality restraint equipment, maintained in good condition.
- Check your load restraint immediately before leaving and during the trip.
- You are driving under different, more difficult conditions when you are carrying certain types of loads.
- Failure to restrain a load correctly on a vehicle may result in legal action being taken against any persons involved, including a fine of up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$25,000 for corporations.
- Load restraint should meet the performance standards detailed on the [National Transport Commission website](#).