

If you throw it here,



You're throwing it out there!



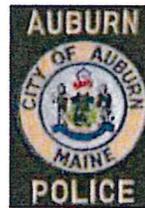
Commercial garbage and recycling haulers are not to blame for all of the trash that turns into litter. In fact, most in the industry say the small haulers - especially weekend warriors cleaning out the garage or hauling home remodeling debris - share the responsibility. It doesn't take long to secure a tarp or cargo netting over a pickup truck bed. Tarps can be bought for under \$20, including tie-downs, at most home improvement or automotive stores.



Thank you for your assistance in keeping our community clean and roadways safe.



City of Auburn
Public Works Department
296 Gracelawn Rd
Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 333-6670



City of Auburn
Auburn Police Department
60 Court St
Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 333-6650

www.auburnmaine.org
www.auburnpd.com
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Secure your load for safer roads!

Across North America, over 25,000 accidents are caused each year by litter that is either purposefully dumped by motorists or that falls out of vehicles with unsecured loads. Nearly 100 of those accidents are fatal.

During an unsecured load detail, the Auburn Police Department stopped 11 commercial drivers and 9 non-commercial drivers. Warnings or summonses were issued to those not in compliance with the city ordinance.

Auburn Public Works has logged in over 250 debris removal request calls since March 2009.



State of Maine's motor vehicle law:

"Unsecured load" 29-A §2396-2

Summary of section:

A motorist may not operate a vehicle on a public way, with a load that is not fastened, secured, confined, or loaded to reasonably prevent a portion from falling off. If the load consists of sawdust, shavings, or wood chips, the motorist must make a reasonable effort to completely cover the load.

FINE: \$150.00 to \$500.00

"Unsecured Load" means a shipment of solid waste in or on a vehicle that is not covered with a tarp, inside an enclosed vehicle, or otherwise secured or tied down by safety chains or other fastening devices in a manner that will prevent materials from spilling, escaping, falling or being blown or deposited outside the vehicle while the vehicle is in motion. For purposes of this definition, solid waste contained in trash bags that are not covered with a tarp, inside an enclosed vehicle or otherwise secured down is an unsecured load.

Take the time to secure your load:

- Don't rely on the weight of items to keep them in your truck. Bumps, turns and sudden stops can dislodge even heavy items like furniture, tools, and equipment.
- Consider buying a cover if you don't often haul large bulky items in your truck. Covers improve fuel economy and the appearance of your vehicle, keep your goods dry, keep thieves out and keep materials in the bed.
- All trash or recyclables should be in sturdy bags and covered by a strong tarp or cargo netting. If you often throw trash into your truck bed, secure a 5-gallon bucket with a lid in a corner of the bed as a trash can, or throw trash into the tool box.
- Tie down with rope, bungee cords, netting or straps. Tie items directly to your vehicle including large items like appliances and garbage cans. Cover your load with a sturdy plastic tarp or net. Think about what would happen to your load if you had to stop suddenly or swerve. Put lighter weight things at the bottom of the load and don't overload your truck bed.

- Nothing gives your company a bad reputation like litter streaming past your logo.
- 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.
- An officer can issue a citation to the driver/hauler. Fines, imposed by the court, could be as much as \$150 to \$500.

