



Dangers of Unsecured Loads



Transport colleagues stopped a vehicle and trailer because loads in both the trailer and van were unsecured. A road roller being transported on the trailer **was not secured** with ratchet straps and some equipment **carried in the vehicle's skip was loose**.

Drivers are responsible for the safety and security of all vehicle loads.



Unsecured loads - such as plant, tools, equipment, materials and containers - can become projectiles if the **driver stops or turns abruptly** or if the vehicle is involved in an accident.

Drivers must ensure:

- They **complete pre-use checks of the vehicle** and the security of loads, including trailer attachments.
 - All **loads are securely fixed** and do not present a danger to vehicle occupants, other road users or members of the public.
 - Tools, materials and equipment are **stowed and secured correctly** whilst in transit.
 - Tools, materials and equipment are **not stored inside the vehicle cab** unless placed in a fixed container or toolbox specifically designed for this purpose.
 - **Ratchet straps, nets and covers are used as appropriate.** If items cannot be strapped down, a net or appropriate heavy-duty cover must be used.
 - Fuel is secured in a fuel storage box. **Note: Fuel must never be left unattended and accessible - for example, in a van skip or carried in the vehicle cab.**
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Failure to comply could result in:

- Police Scotland issuing a roadside fine and possible prosecution
- A prohibition notice preventing travel until rectified
- A DVSA report affecting the Council's Operator's Licence
- Disciplinary action
- Loss of insurance cover

Please note: If a driver has any concerns about the safe loading of a vehicle - whether or not they loaded it - the vehicle must not be moved. The driver should notify their supervisor or manager immediately.

Contact Us

If further advice or assistance is required, please contact the [Health and Safety Helpdesk](#).