



## SECURE YOUR LOAD, PROTECT OUR WATER.

Summer weather has many of us itching to get outside and enjoy nature! Long summer days mean more time for hiking, camping, and fishing. However, recreational travel and activities means more opportunities for litter and other pollutants to enter our waters. If you are traveling with a lot of camping gear or other cargo, learn how to properly secure the load to prevent your items from tumbling into our roadways. Not only could you cause an accident, but stormwater picks up debris and carries it into our creeks, rivers and eventually our oceans.

### 1. Use Secure Tie-Downs

When securing cargo, use heavy duty straps or cargo nets specifically designed for securing vehicle cargo. Avoid using bungee cords, which can stretch out at high travel speeds and allow cargo to slip free.

### 2. Arrange Your Cargo

Consider the weight of your cargo as you load your vehicle. If you drive a pickup truck, position heavier items closer to the cab, which helps keep your vehicle from becoming back-weighted and can cause poor steering and handling.

### 3. Secure Cargo on Two or More Sides

Using your cargo straps, secure your load on at least two sides of your vehicle. When possible, secure your ties to the load itself, providing additional security when traveling.

### 4. Test the Load Before You Hit the Road!

Before you start traveling, check to make sure your load is secured. Check each item individually by pushing and pulling on each item. If you're traveling for a long distance, check your load after 5-10 minutes of driving to ensure nothing has shifted and your cargo is secure for the remainder of your journey.

Regardless of how well you have secured your cargo, try staying in the right lane of the highway and driving at no more than the speed limit. Preventing debris from falling out of vehicles helps prevent accidents, and helps protect our waters from pollutants. Visit [www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org) for more information and tips to help you protect waterways in order to keep water clean in Contra Costa County.