

Road Debris Laws – AAA State-By-State Review

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have statutes regarding unsecured loads, including penalties and exemptions. A majority of states reported exempting vehicles from unsecured load statutes, primarily for agriculture activities or roadway maintenance.



August 2016

| State | Penalty | Exemptions* | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | Agricultural Products | Roadway Maintenance | Other |
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ^{1 2} |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³ |
| Maine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² |
| Nebraska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court discretion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court discretion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴ |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Rhode Island | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TOTAL | 50 states + D.C. | 22 states | 34 states + D.C. | 8 states |

| Legend | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Specified in statute |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court discretion | Court discretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | None |
| P | Includes imprisonment |

*Note: Exemptions are for minor road debris, such as salt, sand, hay/straw or poultry feathers. Statutes in Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin do not list any exemptions.

¹ Garbage collection

² Work zone or roadway construction activities

³ Load became unsecured as the result of an accident or circumstances beyond the control of the operator of the vehicle

⁴ Certain local and private roadways