



NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 24, 2018
District: District 4 – Contra Costa County, www.dot.ca.gov/dist4
Contact: Alejandro Lopez
Email: alejandro.lopez@dot.ca.gov
Phone (510) 286-5445

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Reminds Motorists to Secure Loads Before Traveling this Memorial Day Weekend

MARTINEZ, Calif. – The Caltrans “Protect Every Drop” stormwater pollution education campaign and the Contra Costa Clean Water Program hosted a media event today to display the dangerous and unsightly items cluttering highways and waterways in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area.

Caltrans demonstrated how to properly tarp and tie loads in truck beds and vehicle roofs to prevent items from tumbling onto the roadway. Garbage that falls onto the road can also wash into storm drains finding its way to state streams, lakes, and rivers.

“Clean water is essential to our quality of life, and it’s important to ‘*Protect Every Drop*,’” said Caltrans District Director Jim Davis. “Every motorist needs to do their part to keep California’s, highways and waterways clean.”

“Whether you’re heading out of town or tackling a big project at home this holiday weekend, properly securing the items in the back of, or on top of, your vehicle is important,” said Contra Costa Clean Water Program Outreach Committee Vice Chair, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz. “Fallen debris is not only a safety hazard, but can enter storm drains, pollute our waterways and endanger fish and wildlife.”

A load is secure when nothing can slide, shift, fall, or sift onto the roadway. Here are some tips on properly securing a load:

- 1) **Tie it down.** Large or heavy items, like coolers, ice chests, beach chairs, kayaks and paddle boards should be secured with solid straps, rope, bungee cords, or netting. Make sure your tie down materials are appropriate for the weight they are securing and can withstand highway speeds.
- 2) **Cover it up.** For loose items like grass, tree clippings or flotation devices, a tarp or netting can be used to keep items in place.

BE WORK ZONE ALERTSM



ProtectEveryDrop.com



NEWS RELEASE

- 3) **Properly dispose of litter in pick-up beds.** Litter in pick-up truck beds, such as water bottles, soda cans, sandwich wrappers, debris from the beach and even fireworks can fly out when vehicles reach highway speed. Dispose of litter properly.
- 4) **Re-check your load.** Loads can shift and settle during a trip. When safe to do so, stop to re-check your load during your trip to the beach or out of town. Tighten straps that may have loosened and adjust your load if necessary.

Litter and debris can clog stormwater drains and may end up in local waterways and waterbodies creating pollution. Caltrans' [Protect Every Drop](#) campaign educates Californians about the sources and pathways of stormwater pollution, and to change behaviors of the public to reduce stormwater pollution in and around the state highway system including areas like Contra Costa County.

Caltrans owns and operates storm drain systems along more than 15,000 miles of the state highway system, which discharge into every major watershed of the state. Stormwater picks up pollution washed off of vehicles and roadways when it rains, which makes its way through ditches and pipes that make up storm drain systems. The polluted water then discharges either to an adjacent city or county storm drain system, or to a stream, river or lake – and eventually to bays and the ocean.

About the Campaign

The three-year “*Protect Every Drop*” educational campaign will include a cohesive and integrated public relations, advertising and community outreach program across California in order to help change the behavior of Californians in a way that leads to improved water quality. The campaign is being guided by a steering committee that includes Caltrans, the State Water Boards and the California Stormwater Quality Association.

###

BE WORK ZONE ALERTSM



ProtectEveryDrop.com