

# Load/Unload Drywall

## Box Truck or Trailer



### PURPOSE:

Hauling drywall in a box truck or trailer can be challenging. By following simple precautions, you can ensure your cargo stays secure and prevent accidents.

#### Step 1: Prepare Your Vehicle

- 1. Clear the Cargo Area:** Ensure the cargo area of your truck or trailer is empty and clean.
- 2. Inspect the Truck:** Check the tires, suspension, and load capacity of your truck. Refer to the owner's manual for the maximum payload.



#### Step 2: Gather Necessary Equipment

- **Straps:** Use ratchet straps or bungee cords to secure the load.
- **Red Flags or Reflective Tape:** To indicate an overhanging load.
- **Blankets or Padding:** To protect your truck and the lumber.
- **Tarp:** To cover the lumber if needed.
- **Dunnage or Blocking:** Use wooden blocks or other materials to prevent lumber from shifting.



#### Step 3: Prepare the Cargo Area

- 1. Place Support Boards:** Lay down plywood or support boards across the floor of the truck to create a flat surface and distribute the weight evenly.
- 2. Add Padding:** Place blankets or padding on the support boards to protect the drywall from damage.



#### Step 4: Load the Drywall

- 1. Lift with Care:** Use proper lifting techniques to avoid damaging the drywall. It's best to have at least one other person to help.
- 2. Align Drywall:** Lay the drywall flat on the support boards, making sure it is aligned parallel to the truck floor.
- 3. Stack Neatly:** If you have multiple sheets, stack them neatly on top of each other.



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### Step 5: Secure the Drywall

1. **Strap the Load:** Use ratchet straps or tie-down ropes to secure the drywall in place. Run the straps over the top and around the sides of the drywall to prevent shifting. Careful not to break drywall.
2. **Check for Movement:** Ensure the drywall is tightly secured and does not move when you push or pull it.



### Step 6: Protect the Drywall

1. **Cover with Blankets:** Place blankets or padding over the top of the drywall to protect it from damage during transit.
2. **Use a Tarp:** If there is a risk of moisture or debris, cover the drywall with a tarp for additional protection.
3. **Secure the Tarp:** Use additional straps or bungee cords to secure the tarp in place.



### Step 7: Drive Safely

1. **Check Your Load:** Periodically stop to check the security of your load during the trip.
2. **Drive Cautiously:** Avoid sudden stops, sharp turns, and high speeds. Drive slowly, especially over bumps and rough terrain.



### UNLOADING/Deliver

#### Step 8: Unload the Drywall

1. **Prepare the Unloading Area:** Ensure the unloading area is clear and has enough space to accommodate the drywall.
2. **Wear Gloves:** Protect your hands by wearing gloves while handling the lumber.
3. **Lift with Care:** Use proper lifting techniques to avoid injury. Lift with your legs, not your back.
4. **Place Neatly:** Arrange the drywall neatly at the delivery location, ensuring it is stable and accessible to the recipient.

