

Load/Unload Mulch/Soil

Pickup or Box Truck or Trailer



PURPOSE:

Hauling mulch and soil can be challenging. By following simple precautions, you can ensure your cargo stays secure and prevent accidents.

Step 1: Prepare Your Vehicle

1. **Inspect the Vehicle:** Ensure your vehicle, whether it's a pickup truck, box truck, or trailer, is in good condition. Check the tires, suspension, and load capacity.
2. **Clear the Cargo Area:** Make sure the cargo area is empty and clean to accommodate the bags.



Step 2: Gather Necessary Equipment

- **Straps:** Use ratchet straps or bungee cords to secure the load.
- **Tarp:** To cover the bags if needed, especially in case of rain.
- **Gloves:** To protect your hands while handling the bags.
- **Pallets or Wooden Boards:** Optional, to create a flat surface and prevent damage to the bags.
- **Plastic:** Optional, to keep a clean truck bed, ask a store associate for free plastic lining.



Step 3: Load the Mulch or Soil Bags

1. **Distribute Weight Evenly:** Place the heaviest bags at the bottom and distribute the weight evenly across the cargo area.
2. **Do Not Overload:** Check for payload capabilities. Overloading can lead to decreased maneuverability, longer stopping distances, and an increased risk of accidents, especially during emergency situations.
3. **Stack Neatly:** Stack the bags in an interlocking pattern to create a stable load. Avoid stacking too high to prevent tipping.
4. **Use Pallets or Boards (Optional):** Lay down pallets or wooden boards to create a flat surface and protect the bags from punctures.



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Step 4: Secure the Load

1. **Strap the Load:** Use ratchet straps or bungee cords to secure the bags in place. Run the straps over the top and around the sides of the stack.
2. **Check for Movement:** Ensure the bags are tightly secured and do not move when you push or pull them.



Step 5: Cover the Load (if needed)

1. **Use a Tarp:** If there is a risk of rain or debris, cover the bags with a tarp to protect them.
2. **Secure the Tarp: UNLOADING/Deliver**

Step 6: Drive Safely

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



UNLOADING/Deliver

Step 7: Unload the Bags

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

