

Load/Unload Lumber

Box Truck



PURPOSE:

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

Step 1: Prepare Your Truck

1. **Clear the Cargo Area:** Ensure the cargo area of your truck 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: Load the Lumber

1. **Distribute Weight Evenly:** Place the heaviest pieces of lumber at the bottom and evenly distribute the weight across the bed.
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. **Align Lumber:** Ensure all lumber is aligned parallel to the bed of the truck.
4. **Use Dunnage:** Place dunnage or blocks between layers of lumber to prevent shifting and to create a stable load.



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Step 4: Secure the Lumber

1. **Strap the Load:** Use ratchet straps or bungee cords to secure the lumber in place. Make sure to tie down both the front and back of the load.
2. **Check for Movement:** Ensure the lumber is tightly secured and does not move when you push or pull it.



Step 5: Mark Overhanging Lumber

1. **Red Flags:** Attach red flags or reflective tape to any lumber that extends beyond the box of the truck to alert other drivers. If the door must remain open, make sure it is secure and lumber does not shift.
2. **Legal Requirements:** Check local regulations for the required distance that triggers the need for marking overhanging loads.



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 Lumber

1. **Prepare the Unloading Area:** Ensure the unloading area is clear and has enough space to accommodate the lumber.
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 lumber neatly at the delivery location, ensuring it is stable and accessible to the recipient.

