



Loose Items

What is a loose item?

Generally speaking, a loose item is anything in the passenger compartment that could move during sudden braking, or in a crash. The passenger compartment includes the space at the rear of a station wagon or four wheel drive.

Many drivers who were otherwise well restrained, have been injured by missiles that launched during a crash.

Typical missiles include: brief case, laptop computer, umbrella, lunchbox, speaker/speaker-boxes, first-aid kits, fire extinguisher, steering-wheel locks, etc.

Some items should never ever be carried in the passenger compartment of a vehicle. In particular hazardous materials such as petrol, gas cylinders (including all aerosol spray cans) and very heavy objects like toolboxes must not be carried in the passenger compartment.

Animals are best transported in the rear of a vehicle, behind a cargo barrier.

What is a cargo barrier?

Most manufacturers are able to supply or recommend a cargo barrier to fit your station wagon or four wheel drive. Cargo barriers are designed and tested to prevent the intrusion of otherwise loose items into the passenger compartment during heavy braking or a crash. Unless you need to convert the rear of your wagon/4WD into additional seating, it's best to have a cargo barrier fitted permanently.

Secure your load

Once you have relocated all loose items to the boot or behind a cargo barrier, it's best to secure the load in place. A good way to do this is with tie-down straps. The best tie-down straps come with a safe working load (SWL) rating, so you can be confident the load won't shift, even in an emergency.

Trailers

It is equally important to secure the load on the tray of a truck or on a trailer. Always ensure the load you are carrying is within safe working limits.

Where the load is positioned can have a serious effect on vehicle stability and safety. Loads positioned too far forward, or too far back, can cause trailer sway, and loss of control. Always check the vehicle manufacturers instructions.

Fast
Street

