Secure your load

While June was National Secure Your Load Month, Buncombe County Solid Waste prefers to raise awareness about this important issue every day of the year. Unsecured loads pose an immediate danger to other vehicles and drivers on our roadways and are a major source of roadside litter and environmental pollution. Not sure if your load is secure? Here are three things to check when transporting cargo:

1. Ensure that items are secured and cannot be dislodged or moved around if you need to brake suddenly.
2. Ensure your vehicle or trailer is completely covered with a tarp/bed cover and is secured tightly with a rope or tiedown.
3. Ensure your cover is big enough to cover the entire truck bed or trailer.

Not only is securing your load critical to road safety and environmental concerns, but it’s also the law. North Carolina state law outlines traveling on roadways with an unsecured load as an illegal offense. In Buncombe County, we are rolling out a comprehensive education and outreach program during the summer months at our facilities to emphasize the importance and legality of this issue. Vehicles that come through the Buncombe County Transfer Station or the Buncombe County Landfill with unsecured loads during July will be issued a warning. In August 2023, the County will begin to enact penalties for unsecured loads for both residential and commercial vehicles:
- Residential – $10
- Commercial – $25

To learn more about this campaign, fine structures, and educational resources, please visit [www.buncombecounty.org/secureyourload](http://www.buncombecounty.org/secureyourload). We encourage all residents and businesses to become Load Warriors for our communities and environment!

Contaminated and mixed loads

Buncombe County works hard to offer and maintain many recycling programs for residents and businesses. These include recycling programs for yard waste, tires, metal, cardboard, clean wood, clean brick/asphalt/concrete, food waste, and more! For decades, through education and outreach, we have encouraged residents and businesses to utilize these programs. As landfill capacity decreases and waste production increases, it is more important than ever for materials in a load to be sorted correctly BEFORE they arrive at our facilities. It is also against state law to landfill used oil, yard waste, white goods (appliances), aluminum cans, scrap tires, lead-acid batteries, motor vehicle oil filters, wooden pallets, and computer monitors and TVs. This is part of why we offer such a robust variety of recycling programs!

Beginning in August 2023, Buncombe County will begin issuing warnings for incoming mixed loads, and in September will begin enforcing an existing ordinance that assesses a fee for mixed waste loads that contain substantial recycling materials. The goal is to encourage haulers, both residential and commercial alike, to separate recyclables from their waste loads. This enforcement will divert waste and extend the life of our landfill.

Incoming loads that contain 5% or more by weight/volume of the following materials will be targeted:
- Corrugated cardboard
- Untreated wood suitable for mulching*
- Clean concrete, cinderblock, brick, concrete with steel*
- All metals

*The recycling program for these materials is only available at the landfill. No drop off for recycling of these materials at the transfer station.

The County will double the base tip fee typically charged to dispose at our facilities for these loads. For repeat offenses, the County will charge triple the base tip fee.

The base tip fee for fiscal year 2024 (beginning July 1) is $45.00 at the landfill and $52.00 at the transfer station.

Check our website for updates about this program as enforcement unfolds, including ordinance language, business flyers, and resources.

Handling old household textiles

Although many textiles, such as sheets, clothing, towels, upholstery, industrial fabric scraps, and most other woven items, can be reused or recycled, do not put them in recycling carts! If you have clothing and other household textiles that you no longer need, donate or sell items that are in good condition. Buncombe County also offers textile recycling at both of its facilities. We accept clothes, shoes, purses, and other household textiles. All textiles must be bagged, clean, and dry to be properly recycled. Drop them off during our regular hours at these locations:
- Buncombe County Landfill
- Buncombe County Transfer Station
The problem with plastics

Plastic is the most commonly “wishcycled” material in our community. Wishcycling is when people may think (or wish!) a plastic material, like a takeout container or plastic bag, is recyclable when it’s not. Buncombe County encourages residents to stick to the basics for curbside plastics recycling: bottles, tubs, and jars. If you have a plastic item in one of these shapes, it’s probably safe to say that it is recyclable.

As a reminder, Buncombe County does not recycle plastics by number, so the number in the middle of the recycling symbol on the plastic product is irrelevant.

Remember, just because a material may have a recycling symbol on it doesn’t mean that it is locally recyclable! We have several resources available to help you, including recycling details on the back page and a recycling brochure available online at www.buncombecounty.org/common/solidWaste/Recycling-Guide.pdf. Place one of these next to your collection bins as a reminder for all who are recycling.

If you have a question about a specific item, use our Waste Wizard tool online at www.buncombecounty.org/solidwaste.

Household hazardous waste drop-off

Throughout the summer months, household hazardous waste (HHW) is accepted twice a month at the Buncombe County Landfill. If you have old paint, spray cans, household chemicals, old pesticides, fire extinguishers, electronics, fluorescent tubes, computers, or TV monitors, you can properly dispose of them on select Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in July, August, and September. These are the upcoming drop-off dates:

- July 21
- August 11
- August 25
- September 8

What to do with your plastic bags

Plastic bags are a significant source of contamination in the recycling stream. When plastic bags are mixed with other recyclables, they get tangled in equipment at the sorting facility, causing frequent stops to remove them and sometimes damaging the equipment. Plus, they do NOT get recycled. Instead of mixing plastic bags with other recyclables, try these tips.

- **Reuse** plastic shopping bags by taking them back to the store and refilling them with groceries.
- **Repurpose** bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small wastebaskets. Smaller bags, such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or dog waste disposal.
- **Recycle** empty, clean plastic bags, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks. Plastic bags are accepted for recycling in special bins at grocery and home improvement stores, such as Ingles, Harris Teeter, Food Lion, and Lowe’s.
- **Replace** plastic bags with reusable shopping bags. The easiest way to deal with plastic bags is not to have to deal with them at all!
More compost drop-off sites!

Buncombe County and the City of Asheville have completed their expansion of the Food Scraps Drop-Off program! There are now EIGHT locations throughout the County where residents may drop off their food scraps free of charge. To use any of the sites, you must register online at www.buncombecounty.org/composting. You will then receive an email with a lock code and instructions on how to use the drop-off sites.

**FOOD SCRAPS DROP-OFFS**

THERE ARE NOW EIGHT FOOD SCRAPS DROP-OFF SITES!

- **Buncombe County Landfill**
  - Convenience Center
  - 85 Panther Branch Road
  - Asheville

- **Murphy Oakley Community Center and Library**
  - 749 Fairview Road
  - Asheville

- **Stephens-Lee Recreation Center**
  - 30 Washington Carver Avenue
  - Asheville

- **West Asheville Library**
  - 942 Haywood Road
  - Asheville

- **Skyland/South Buncombe Library**
  - 260 Overlook Road
  - Asheville

- **Buncombe County Transfer Station**
  - 190 Hominy Creek Road
  - Asheville

- **East Asheville Library**
  - 3 Avon Road
  - Asheville

- **Leicester Library**
  - 1561 Alexander Road
  - Leicester

If you’re registered for one, you’re registered for all. Lock codes are the same!

Thank you for using the food scraps drop-offs!

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**Planning a litter cleanup?**

If you are interested in hosting a litter cleanup within the City of Asheville, please contact Asheville Greenworks to ask whether bags, gloves, vests, and litter grabbers may be available to your group. If you are interested in hosting a litter cleanup within unincorporated Buncombe County, please email recycling@buncombecounty.org for further assistance.

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**What is grasscycling?**

There are few things that say summer more than pulling out the lawn mower from the garage and putting it to work. While lawn care is something we’re all familiar with, grasscycling may not be.

Grasscycling is when you leave your chopped grass clippings on the mowed lawn to add nitrogen and moisture to the soil. It’s easy to grasscycle. All you need is the mower you have at home. It can be a gas, electric, or reel mower. Simply remove the bagging attachment and, if needed, insert a safety device over the grass chute. If there isn’t a bag attached to your mower, you’re already set to grasscyle. Mow as usual, letting the grass fall back onto your lawn. When you mow regularly, the clippings are small and break down quickly. The clippings serve as a mulch and help reduce evaporation from the soil. Grasscycling can also provide up to a quarter of the nitrogen needed by your lawn, which can save money on lawn treatments. The clippings have not only organic matter but also water, so they add moisture to your soil. In addition, you will avoid the cost of buying bags and eliminate the hassle and time spent bagging the clippings and taking them to the curb. You can feel good about not taking up landfill space with useful, biodegradable organic material, too.

Here’s the best part — grasscycling saves you time! When you don’t stop to remove, empty, and reattach the grass catcher, you will spend 40% less time mowing. That leaves you more time for outdoor activities that are more fun for you, whether that is gardening, walking, reading a book on the porch, or playing catch with the kids.

If you do have grass clippings or other yard waste, you can drop it off at the Buncombe County Landfill, where yard waste is accepted at half the regular tip fee. Yard waste is ground into mulch, which is offered to the public at $5 per scoop.

If the landfill is not a convenient location for you, many businesses throughout the County also accept and recycle yard waste, including the Riverside Stump Dump.

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**Safe Disposal for Hot Ashes and Charcoal**

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed directly into your trash cart. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of the truck driver, landfill workers, and the public.

Charcoal and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all charcoal and ashes as hot.

Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let the ashes cool for at least 48 hours.
- Wrap ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place them in your trash cart or dumpster. (Keep container outdoors.)
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then wrap them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Do not place ashes and charcoal in your recycling cart.
**RECYCLE ALL TOGETHER**

**PLASTIC**
- Bottles, tubs, jugs and jars
  - No pumps
  - Empty and rinse

**METAL**
- All cans
  - Empty and rinse

**GLASS**
- Bottles and jars
  - Empty and rinse

**PAPER**
- Paper, cartons and cardboard
  - Flatten cardboard

**KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT!**

- Aerosol cans
  - Electronic items
  - Hazardous waste
  - Household glass
  - Medical waste
  - Plastic bags/wrap
  - Plastic clamshell packaging
  - Scrap metal/wood
  - Shredded paper
  - Styrofoam/peanuts
  - Tanglers (cords, hoses, wires, etc.)
  - Tires
  - Toys

If you have any questions, please contact the Solid Waste Office at 828-250-5460 or the Landfill at 828-250-5462.

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**Buncombe County Landfill Convenience Center**

**Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:**
From I-240 East or West, take Exit 1A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 13½ miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel ½ of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.

**Buncombe County Transfer Station Convenience Center**

**Directions to the Transfer Station:**
From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left. From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.

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**Important Phone Numbers for County Residents**

- Buncombe County Solid Waste Department • 828-250-5460 • www.buncombecounty.org
- Buncombe County Landfill • 828-250-5462
- Buncombe County Transfer Station • 828-250-6205

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Get announcements directly in your News Feed about Buncombe County Government activities and programs, including solid waste and recycling. Plus, you'll be able to post your questions and comments, find county job listings, and more. Like us today at www.facebook.com/buncombeGov.

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**TV/PAINT RECYCLING EVENTS**

Buncombe County Landfill also accepts the following items from residents’ ONLY during TV/Paint Recycling events. Check our website for event details and dates.

- **Electronics:** Cell phones, keyboards, etc.
- **Televisions, computer monitors, and CPUs:** Every day drop-off is available for residents who are able to self-load.
- **Paint:** Paint, paint thinners, water sealers, enamels, etc. 20-gallon limit per event.
- **Flammable liquids:** Gasoline and kerosene.
- **Pesticides:** Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.
- **Unbroken fluorescent bulbs:** 20 bulbs max per month. Check online for bulb disposal guidelines.

**NOTE:** Bio-Hazardous materials, radioactive materials, and explosives are **NOT** accepted.

Businesses can recycle electronics by the pound for a fee. No business hazardous wastes will be accepted.

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**ACCEPTED EVERY DAY**
The landfill also accepts the following materials every day at the Convenience Center from residents only — no commercial quantities.

- Used cooking oil
- Motor oil
- Lead acid batteries
- Automotive fluids, oil filters and anti-freeze

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**Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents**

- Asheville City Sanitation – Trash Pickup • 828-259-5857
- Curbside Management – Recycling • 828-252-2532

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**CLIP & SAVE**
Road and travel
- Turn right onto Panther Branch Road.
- 13½ miles to Panther Branch Road.

**Buncombe County Landfill Directions to the landfill.**
- The landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.
- The new landfill is located on the right. The new Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.

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**CLIP & SAVE**
- Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith • 828-250-5473
- Recycling Coordinator – Cassandra Lohmeyer • 828-220-1361

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**Important Phone Numbers for Asheville Residents**

- Solid Waste Office • 828-250-5462
- Buncombe County Transfer Station Convenience Center • 828-250-6205

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**Buncombe County **

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments! Buncombe County Solid Waste Department 81 Panther Branch Road, Alexander, NC 28701 828-250-5460 • www.buncombecounty.org

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**CLIP & SAVE**
PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.