

# Flatbed tarping

## Best practices

### Always use best practices

- Use personal protective equipment.
- Use a forklift to lift tarp onto load.
- Use ladder to access load.
- Know the load surfaces and watch for holes.
- Get on hands and knees when near load's edge.
- Help another driver when possible.
- Get instructions on (or ask questions about) the fall protection systems available at each loading site you visit.

### Use proper personal protective equipment

- Safety glasses
- Gloves that fit well and allow good dexterity
- High visibility vest
- Good traction-control shoes with ankle support
- Fall protection gear while at height

### Climbing the load

- Use forklift to place tarp on load.
- Ladder safety
  - Inspect side rails and rungs.
  - Maintain solid footing.
  - Extend ladder 3 feet above load.
  - Maintain three points of contact.
  - Use caution when changing tasks.
- Watch for open/uneven sections.

### Unfolding the tarp

- Position tarp on the back of the load.
- Never walk backward.
- Watch for holes in load.
- Work from hands and knees near load edges.
- Carefully unfold the tarp and drop over sides.

### Fastening the tarp

- Fasten rear folds from top of load.
- Wear safety glasses.
- Use bungees, cords, or straps to help hold the tarp
- Pull bungee cords away from your body/face.
- Keep fingers away from pinch points.
- Turn hooks so they face away from tarp.

### Removing the tarp

- Grab one corner and yank up to get air under the tarp.
- Use a steady, balanced pull.
- Get the tarp neat, flat, and square.
- Use proper lifting techniques or forklift to lift tarp.

