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Memorial Day is the official kick-off to summer and families across Arizona are getting ready! Vacations are being planned, schools are letting out and students are packing up.

Leaving dorms is a big undertaking for young scholars as they have probably accumulated a lot of "stuff" throughout the first half of the school year. Do they have a plan to get it all home? Are they just throwing in the back of a truck or tying it to their car? If so, their road trip could turn into a hazard for other drivers should any of that "stuff" end up on Arizona freeways.

Nearly 25,000 accidents are caused each year from dangerous debris in the roadway. Last month, a video depicting a 2x4 flying into a car's windshield caused quite a stir and definitively illustrated the threat of dangerous debris.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOhqMAOrp0c>

Moreover, that debris translates into litter, a lot of it! Forty percent of trash found on Valley freeways is accidental, meaning that it has fallen or blown from vehicles. We've all seen it, the odd mattress or chair on the side of the road. It's easy to prevent - simply employ the steps below and ensure that your "stuff" makes it home.

- Tie down large or heavy items firmly with solid straps, rope, bungee cords, or netting.
- Use a sturdy plastic, canvas tarp or netting to keep lighter items in place.

- Put lighter weight items at the bottom of the load and make sure they are secure.
- All material should be kept level with the truck bed to prevent it from spilling over.

Need materials to Secure Your Load? Take the Safe Loads=Safe Roads Pledge and be entered to win a Don't Trash Arizona Tarp!

<http://donttrashaz.com/secure-your-load/pledge-2/>



The advertisement features a yellow, crumpled paper background. At the top, the logos for the Maricopa Association of Governments (a stylized mountain range) and ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation, a stylized purple and green circle) are displayed. Below the logos, four game icons are shown: 'TICKET TOSS' (a truck with tickets), 'OBLITERATOR' (a truck with trash), 'WRAP MY RIDE' (a truck with a tarp), and 'TRASH TRIVIA' (a truck with a trivia board). At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'Click here to play our new online games!' is written in a bold, black font.

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