

# 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 near the edge.

Help another driver when possible.

*Special thanks to  
Randy Blue,  
Sherman Brothers  
Trucking and  
Mona Chisum,  
F.V. Martin Trucking*

### Use proper personal protective equipment

- Safety glasses
- Gloves that fit well and allow good dexterity
- High visibility vest
- Hat
- Good traction-control shoes with ankle support

### Climbing the load

- Use forklift to place tarp on load.
- Ladder safety
  - Inspect side rails and rungs.
  - Maintain solid footing.
  - Extend 3-feet above load.
  - Maintain three points of contact.
  - Use caution when transitioning.
- 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.
- Fasten rear folds from top of load.

### Fastening the tarp

- Wear safety glasses.
- Use bungee to help hold the tarp “helping hand.”
- Pull bungee 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 tug-of-war pull.
- Get the tarp neat, flat, and square to make it easy to fold.
- Work smart—drag tarp to storage area.
- Use proper lifting techniques or forklift to lift tarp.

