

April 22, 2016

## **NDDOT encourages motorists to help keep roadways clear of litter as part of Earth Day**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is honoring Earth Day, April 22 and reminding motorists to do their part in keeping roadways clear of litter. Ditches along the roadway can be inundated with trash and debris from vehicles. By following a few tips, we can all help to keep North Dakota clean:

1. Set an example for others by not littering.
2. Keep a litter bag in your car and hang on to litter until you find a garbage receptacle
3. Large or heavy items should be firmly secured with solid straps, rope, bungee cords or netting. Tie large items directly to your vehicle.
4. Cover loose, lighter items such as tree clippings with a sturdy plastic or canvas tarp or netting. Tie the tarp securely to the vehicle, or it might become road debris as well.
5. Put lighter weight things at the bottom of the load and make sure they are secure. Evenly distribute the load to prevent it from sliding.
6. Keep material level with truck bed or trailer unless tied down, netted or tarped. Materials below the truck bed should also be secured if there's any chance of them blowing out or falling from the vehicle.
7. Double check your load if possible to make sure it is secure at the back and on the sides and top. Remember that loads can move and settle during a journey, allowing restraints to loosen.

In North Dakota it's against the law to litter and if caught you could get a minimum fine of \$100. If litter amounts to more than one cubic foot in volume or consisted of furniture or a major appliance, the offense is a class B misdemeanor. Maximum penalty of 30 days' imprisonment, a fine of \$1,500, or both, may be imposed.

NDDOT recently conducted clean-up efforts along ND Highway 22 near Dickinson and agencies across the state are taking part in a US 85 Clean-up Week from April 25 to April 30. Motorists may see volunteers conducting litter control efforts along the highway throughout the spring and summer months.

For more information on keeping North Dakota clean go to

<http://www.dot.nd.gov/public/kndc.htm>