



SOUTH MICHIGAN FOOD BANK

Food Safety Guidelines:

Transportation in Trailers or Truck Beds

Please note these **YEAR ROUND** guidelines are **REQUIRED** for the safe transport of the food you receive from South Michigan Food Bank, from the time of pick-up at the Food Bank or tailgate site, to arrival at your facility. The utmost concern is that of the client receiving the food - we all want to give folks safe and wholesome food.

Loads in open trailers or beds of pickup trucks must be covered and strapped in place in all forms of weather. Make sure the people picking up the order are aware and come prepared with tarps, rope, bungee cords, etc. to secure your load. We do not have these materials at the Food Bank and shrink wrap is not strong enough. **If your driver comes unprepared to strap and cover the order, we cannot release the food from our facility - this includes orders being picked up at tailgate sites.**

In addition to rain, in an open vehicle, the possibility exists for bird droppings, bugs, and road debris to come in contact with the load; damaging cases and creating unsanitary conditions. **All loads must be covered and secured in place, regardless of weather** so product is free of contamination.

If you are picking up with an open trailer or pickup truck, **the trailer or bed must be free of debris such as leaves, dirt, and trash.** If the trailer or bed is not clean upon arrival, it will be asked to be cleaned in the parking lot before entering the distribution center or tailgate facility. A clean vehicle reduces the chance of contamination – we see the trailer or truck is not clean, we cannot release your order until it is resolved.

Overloaded vehicles can be a hazard on the road to your driver and others - **be sure the vehicle is large enough to safely hold your food order.** If your order is too large for the vehicle, you will have to make a second trip for the rest of your order.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us.

Thanks!

Marsha Keefer
Chief Operating Officer
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