



Hitchhiker Pests

Authorised by The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

If you work around shipping containers or imported goods, then you're in the business of biosecurity.

Each day thousands of shipping containers arrive in Australia, bringing essential supplies from all over the world. Unfortunately, they can also carry and spread exotic pests and diseases. Insects and other pests can get inside, or attach or nest on the outside of, containers and 'hitch a ride' into Australia.

Such pests, known as hitchhiker pests, include the khapra beetle, giant African snail and brown marmorated stink bug. These pests have the potential to cause immense damage to our economy, environment and way of life. Our strong biosecurity system is constantly working to prevent them from entering and establishing here. However, with increasing global trade and changes in climate, agriculture systems and supply chains, this is becoming more complex.

Staff working in import, retail, shipping, freight, logistics or transport industries play a crucial role in keeping an eye out for these pests. Many shipping containers and imported goods are opened for the first time at ports, depots, warehouses, importer's premises, retail stores and even personal households. It's important to be particularly vigilant of hitchhiker pests in these settings.

Keep an eye out for pests themselves, like insects, spiders, snails, snakes and toads. Hitchhiker pests are great at hiding so you might only come across signs of them, such as:

- Small holes in timber, plastic, or cardboard.
- Eggs and egg masses.
- Mud smears and dirt or soil.
- Nests such as those from ants or bees.



Any such signs or pests are a potential threat to Australia. If you **see** anything unusual, **secure** the goods or container immediately and **report** it to the See. Secure. Report. Hotline on 1800 798 636 or online at agriculture.gov.au/report.



Remember, whether you're in the office, on the docks or driving a truck - we're all in the business of biosecurity. Help us keep Australia safe from these pests by being biosecurity aware.

More information

Visit agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/hitchhiker-pests to learn more and to download digital information kits (factsheets, email banners, social media tiles and posters).

Email plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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