



Travelling or returning to Australia

Biosecurity information for travellers

September 2023

Australian biosecurity laws are strict. This is to protect Australia's agriculture and unique environment and wildlife from pests and diseases.

Before you arrive in Australia

Complete your Incoming Passenger Card. By law, you must declare any risk goods, including certain food, plant material and animal products.

This includes goods which are commercially prepared and packaged, fresh, dried, cooked, frozen or small amounts of food, snacks and ingredients for cooking.

Don't take food off the plane or ship.

When you arrive in Australia

- Proceed through immigration clearance.
- Collect your baggage.
- Proceed to biosecurity inspection and present your Incoming Passenger Card and the goods you are declaring to the biosecurity officer.
- Your bags may be checked by a biosecurity officer, a detector dog or X-ray, even if you don't declare any risk goods.

What happens if you don't declare risk goods

If you provide false or misleading information to a biosecurity officer or on your Incoming Passenger Card, or if you fail to answer questions about the goods or comply with directions given by a biosecurity officer, you may be:

- given an infringement notice of up to \$6,260
- subject to civil penalty proceedings, and/or
- prosecuted for a criminal offence.

Your visa may also be cancelled, and if so, you will be refused entry into Australia and you will not be eligible to apply to come to Australia again for up to three years.

You will not be penalised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* if you declare and present all goods, even if they are not allowed into Australia.

What happens to goods you declare

A biosecurity officer will inspect your presented goods and may ask for more information or documentation.

If the goods are permitted and pass inspection they will be returned to you. If the goods do not pass inspection, you may have to pay to have the goods treated, exported from Australia or destroyed. The biosecurity officer will advise you.

DON'T BE
'SORRY'
JUST DECLARE IT

How to check whether goods can be taken into Australia

Visit agriculture.gov.au/bringing-goods.

For specific import conditions or documentation requirements, visit the Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON) at agriculture.gov.au/bicon. If you need an import permit, you must apply and receive it before you bring the goods to Australia.

If you're not sure, don't bring food, plant material and animal products.

For more information, phone **1800 900 090** or email imports@aff.gov.au.

You must declare certain food, plant material and animal products. Here are some examples, but remember if you are not sure, just declare it!

Dairy and egg products

- infant formula
- cheese, milk and yoghurt
- whole, dry and powdered eggs
- mayonnaise
- noodles and pasta

Plant material

- live plants
- seeds, bulbs and cuttings
- fresh and dried flowers
- crafts and ornaments
- wooden goods

Food

- food from the plane or ship
- raw and cooked food and ingredients
- rice
- packaged meals
- honey
- herbs and spices, including herbal teas and medicines

Fruit and vegetables

- fresh and frozen
- preserved and dried

Meat, poultry and seafood products

- fresh, dried, frozen, cooked, smoked, salted or preserved

Food and equipment for animals

- pet food and treats
- medicine
- saddles
- veterinary, grooming, shearing and beekeeping equipment

Live animals and animal products

- eggs and nests
- feathers, bones, horns, skins, animal fur and hair
- stuffed animals and birds
- shells and coral
- beeswax and other bee products

Nuts, seeds, beans and grains

Outdoor, camping and sports equipment and footwear

- hiking boots
- fishing equipment
- anything that could be contaminated with soil, seeds or water

What to do if you find a biosecurity risk after you arrive

If you find live animals, insects, soil, plant material or other risk items when unpacking, phone **1800 798 636**. You won't be penalised.

Other goods

The following goods are not a biosecurity risk:

- alcoholic beverages and cigarettes
- electronic equipment (including laptops, tablets, phones and cameras)
- valuable items (including jewellery, watches and currency).

These imports are regulated by the Department of Home Affairs and they may need to inspect and clear these goods before they can be released. For more information on clearing these goods through the border and import duty and taxes, visit homeaffairs.gov.au.

For over-the-counter or prescription medicines and other therapeutic goods, check with the Therapeutic Goods Administration at tga.gov.au.

For information on the movement of plant and animal species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including shark fin, snake leather, ivory, turtle shell and rare orchids, check with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water at dcceew.gov.au/environment/wildlife-trade/non-commercial.



Phone 1800 900 090 or
+61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)

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agriculture.gov.au/travelling

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