



Diwali or Festival of Lights Biosecurity

September 2023



Important biosecurity information

Food, plant material and animal products from overseas could introduce some of the world's most damaging pests and diseases into Australia. This could devastate our unique environment and valuable agricultural and tourism industries.

If you are arriving from overseas or expecting overseas visitors, it is important that you, your family and visitors are aware of Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

If you are expecting Diwali gifts through the mail, tell your family and friends overseas to check that the products are allowed into Australia before mailing them.

How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Baggage and international mail articles are assessed to identify items that could bring in pests and diseases. This may include biosecurity officers questioning travellers, or screening using X-ray, detector dogs and/or manual inspection.

Products that present a biosecurity risk

Diwali gifts that may pose a biosecurity risk include:

- sweets such as burfi, ras malai, rasgulla and pedas
- products containing dairy
- fresh fruit and dried fruit
- spices and tea
- raw nuts, seeds and herbs
- flowers and plant material.

Products that are permitted into Australia

Diwali gifts that do not pose a biosecurity risk include:

- artificial flowers
- fabric, gold or silver beads and coins
- personalised photo items.

Help protect Australia from pests and diseases

- Purchase your Diwali gifts in Australia.
- Before bringing or mailing a product to Australia, check that it is allowed into Australia by visiting agriculture.gov.au/mailling-bringing-goods.
- When travelling to Australia you must truthfully complete your Incoming Passenger Card and declare plant and animal products to avoid an infringement notice.
- Tell your family and friends overseas to check if the gifts they intend to bring or mail to Australia are allowed into Australia.



Bringing or mailing Diwali gifts to Australia

If you are travelling to Australia and bringing Diwali gifts, you will be given an Incoming Passenger Card before you arrive in Australia. You must mark “Yes” if you are carrying food, plant material or animal products. You must declare or dispose of any goods with a biosecurity risk before inspection. 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
- 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.

If you are expecting to receive Diwali gifts through the mail, make sure your family and friends correctly list the contents of all mail articles and fill out any postal declaration labels or forms.

If your goods require treatment, you will be given the option to pay for the treatment. It may take several weeks for the goods to be sent to you after treatment. Where treatment is not an option, the goods will not be permitted into Australia and you will be notified.



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



For more information
agriculture.gov.au/travelling-mailing

Facebook: Australian Biosecurity
Instagram: @australianbiosecurity