



Bringing Unaccompanied Personal Effects to Australia

Most personal effects that arrive in the country unaccompanied are inspected by the Department of Agriculture. This is because the items may contain exotic pests or diseases (biosecurity risks) that could harm our animals and plants, farming and agricultural industries. For example, they may conceal timber pests or be contaminated with soil that contains pathogens, weeds or plant seeds. The department is primarily concerned with items that:

- originated from an animal or a plant (including timber) or that contain animal or plant material.
- have been in contact with animals, plant material, water, food or soil.

Items of concern detected during the inspection may require cleaning or treatment prior to release. If this is not possible, the items may need to be destroyed or even exported. The cost of these actions is at the expense of the owner of the goods.

The checklist overleaf is designed to assist returning residents or new residents of Australia to identify risk items of potential concern and to minimise delays and costs with the inspection of their goods.

Examples of items that could pose a potential biosecurity risk



What should I do if bringing in unaccompanied personal effects?		✓
1.	Consult the following web pages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Immigration and Border Protection unaccompanied personal effects web page at www.border.gov.au/Busi/Impo/Send Department of Agriculture unaccompanied personal effects webpage at www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/moving-emigrating. Department of Agriculture import conditions database 'ICON' to search for import conditions for specific items at www.agriculture.gov.au/import/icon-icd. 	
2.	Complete your Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534) and declare goods of concern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The B534 form is located in a variety of languages at www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/forms/pdf-numerical You or your agent should record the box numbers for any declared risk items so they can be easily located for the inspection. This will reduce your inspection time and costs. Failure to declare risk items on the B534 can lead to prosecution under Australian legislation. 	
3.	Clean all risk items that you wish to transport to Australia to ensure they are not contaminated with animal or plant material, insects or soil. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor toys e.g. sandpits, pedal cars, toy trucks outdoor furniture, outdoor pots, statues and water fountains lawn mowers, garden equipment/ornaments, shovels etc footwear - shoes, boots, football boots (pack them in the same boxes) pushbikes, motorbikes and quad bikes sporting equipment including gym/exercise weights barbecues, oven grills and cook tops camping equipment vacuum cleaner bag – ensure it is empty and clean rubbish bins animal cages and bedding, fish tanks etc carpets, rugs, mats - ensure they have been vacuumed horse equipment (check ICON for import conditions) 	
4.	Clearly record what is in each box on the packing list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you or your removalist record items on the list, include what the goods are made from e.g. metal bed frame, wooden chair(s), plastic picture frames, cane basket. 	
5.	Number the packing boxes and match the numbers on your packing list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is better not to use second hand boxes or bags that have previously been used to carry animal and plant material and soil e.g. fruit and vegetable cartons, meat boxes, egg cartons, fertiliser bags. 	
Tips for wooden items and goods including plant material		
1.	Timber / wooden furniture: check for small holes or frass/shavings under the items as this may indicate wood borers are present. If live timber pests are found on arrival, the furniture will require treatment at your expense.	
2.	Heat bags: check to see what they are filled with and record this on the packing list. Treatment may be required if they are filled with seeds or plant material.	
3.	Decorations, artefacts, ornaments, picture frames, photo albums, handmade paper, pot pourri, dried flowers: check for plant material e.g. pine cones, vines, moss, flowers, leaves, seeds, bark, as it may require treatment or destruction at your expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas decorations containing plant material are one of the most common items volunteered for destruction at the owner's expense. 	
Tips for other goods		
1.	Foods: check import conditions on the department's ICON database. Some foods are permitted but others may be prohibited or require treatment.	
2.	Pet food and medicine: check import conditions on ICON. They may require an import permit.	
3.	Animal skins or rawhide items: these may need treatment, check import conditions on ICON.	