



October  
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# Travelling or returning to Australia

## Biosecurity information for travellers

DON'T BE  
**'SORRY'**  
JUST DECLARE IT

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 declaration. 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 declaration 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 declaration, 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 specifying a penalty amount of up to A\$2,664
- subject to civil penalty proceedings, and/or
- prosecuted for a criminal offence. If convicted, you could face a maximum penalty of A\$1.1 million and/or be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

Your visa may also be cancelled and, if so, you will be refused entry into Australia.

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.

### How to check whether goods can be taken into Australia

Visit [awe.gov.au/bringing-goods](http://awe.gov.au/bringing-goods).

For specific import conditions or documentation requirements, visit the Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON) at [awe.gov.au/bicon](http://awe.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@awe.gov.au](mailto:imports@awe.gov.au).

### 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.

## 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.

**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

### 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](http://homeaffairs.gov.au).

For over-the-counter or prescription medicines and other therapeutic goods, check with the Therapeutic Goods Administration at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

For information on the movement of plant and animal species listed under the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including shark fin, snake leather, ivory, turtle shell and rare orchids, check [awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/wildlife-trade/non-commercial](http://awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/wildlife-trade/non-commercial).



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

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Information in this factsheet is correct at time of publication.  
Biosecurity import conditions may change without notice.



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