



# Moving to Australia



If you are moving to Australia and plan to bring your personal and household goods with you, it's important to know about Australia's quarantine and customs laws.

Personal belongings are known as unaccompanied personal effects (UPEs). UPEs may include clothing, books, furniture, appliances, and sporting equipment. UPEs do not include bequeathed items, items purchased over the internet, motor vehicles, or parts of, and commercial goods. A different process applies to the clearance of non-UPE items; additional fees may apply.

## Customs

All prohibited and restricted items must be declared. These include:

- Firearms, weapons and ammunition
- Performance and image enhancing drugs
- Medicines including prescription medications, alternative medicines and vitamins
- Protected wildlife such as coral, orchids, caviar, ivory and hunting trophies
- Agricultural and veterinary chemical products
- Illegal pornography
- Heritage-listed goods - such as works of art, stamps, coins, archaeological objects and specimens.

For more information and a comprehensive list, visit:

[www.border.gov.au/Trav/Impo/Proh](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Impo/Proh)

## Biosecurity

In addition, Australia has strict biosecurity requirements in place to help minimise the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering the country. All goods entering Australia are inspected to align with biosecurity protocol.

As such, the Department of Agriculture will need to inspect any item that originated from an animal or a plant (including timber), or contains part of an animal or a plant, as well as items that have been in contact with animals, plants, water, food or soil. It is your responsibility to ensure that all items that have been in contact with food, soil, plants, animals, or their products, be cleaned and free from any contamination.

Some items may require treatment to make them safe, as per our packing tips over. Items that are prohibited because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed.

For a full listing visit the Department of Agriculture website at:

[www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/moving-immigrating](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/moving-immigrating)

or

[www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/moving-immigrating/personal\\_effects](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/moving-immigrating/personal_effects)

## Prohibited and Restricted items

The Australian Government controls the import of certain goods into Australia. This means that some items are prohibited (where you are not allowed to bring the goods into the country under any circumstance) or restricted (where you need to have written permission in order to import the goods).

## Duty free entry

As a first-time migrant or returning Australian resident, you are entitled to bring all your personal and household effects that you have owned and used for more than 12 months immediately preceding your departure for Australia, duty and tax free. Migrants are not students or those on short term visitor or bridging visas.

However, certain items are excluded from the definition of "personal and household effects" and are subject to other requirements. These include motor vehicles, caravans, aircraft, boats and trailers. Alcohol is not considered a personal effect and duty will be charged.

## What you'll need to do

Prior to sending your goods, the following needs to be completed and provided to Grace:

- ✓ Unaccompanied Effects Statement (B534 form). The B534 form is available in a number of languages and can be found at:  
[www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/B534e.pdf](http://www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/B534e.pdf)
- ✓ Copy of your passport
- ✓ If you are packing yourself, we require a complete packing list. Your list must be thorough, for example, write 'Box 1 of 12' and list all items contained in each box. This list will be required by the authorities in Australia. Please note descriptions such as 'kitchen miscellaneous' or 'odds & ends' are not acceptable.

All goods arriving in Australia are subject to mandatory inspection that can affect transit times. Delays are usually caused by incomplete paperwork so it's important you fill in all paperwork correctly.

## Tips if packing yourself

The Department of Agriculture advises the following when it comes to packing yourself:

- All items that have been in contact with food, soil, plants, animals, or their products, to be cleaned and free from any contamination.
- Consider the items that may be of interest to customs and quarantine officers. Pack these items together and put them in boxes separate to those that you consider clearly not to be of quarantine concern.
- Beware of used boxes. Some second hand boxes that were intended for other uses may pose a risk to quarantine. Do not use any packing boxes that have already been in contact with an organic substance such as cartons or inserts used previously with fruit, meat, eggs, flowers, pot plants, or fertiliser bags.
- If second hand boxes are being used, the chances are that they have old numbering or labelling on them. To avoid confusion which may lead to misunderstandings or delays, ensure that any previous labelling on your packing boxes is covered or removed completely. Make sure you use a permanent marker/felt pen to write on boxes in preference to labels that can fall off in transit.
- It is important that the numbers on packing boxes match with the numbers on the packing list. Only write one number for each box or large item.

