



# Moving to Australia

**You're planning your move to Australia and you're not sure what the quarantine and customs laws are? Here is a cheat sheet of what you need to be aware of before shipping your household items.**

Your personal belongings will be known as unaccompanied personal effects (UPEs). UPEs may include clothing, books, furniture, appliances, and sporting equipment. UPEs do not include items that have been left to you by a will, 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.

## **Biosecurity**

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

## **Customs Restrictions**

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.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods](http://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-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 us:

- Unaccompanied Effects Statement (B534 form). [www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/B534e.pdf](http://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/B534e.pdf)
- Copy of your passport
- If you are packing some items 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.

### TIP: What you can do to avoid inspections

The Department of Agriculture advises the following:

- All items that have been in contact with food, soil, plants, animals, or their products, to be thoroughly 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.



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