

What to Pack When You Travel: Advice from AirSafe.com

Security regulations have been constantly evolving since September 2001. The end of 2002 brings about significant changes for all air travelers, especially with respect to what you pack. What follows is an overview of those changes, as well as an overview of what is completely banned from the aircraft and what is allowed in checked bags. Following some of the basic advice listed here can keep you from an embarrassing situation at the security checkpoint.

New Guidelines for Checked Baggage

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recently guidelines for checking baggage. The TSA suggests that passengers leave their checked bags unlocked, which will avoid the potential need to forcibly open bags that require further physical inspection.

The TSA will begin to screen all checked bags for explosives on or before December 31, 2002. It will be done by a variety of methods, including the use of sophisticated bomb detection systems. Far more complex than a simple x-ray, these systems can detect materials commonly used in explosives.

Bags that have suspicious contents will be searched, and the TSA made a number of suggestions for making this process easier for the TSA and for the individual passenger:

- Do not lock your bags – If a locked bag has to be opened, the bag could be damaged. The TSA suggests using cable or zip ties to secure the bag.
- Do not pack food or beverages in checked luggage – These items may be identified as potential explosives by the bomb detection systems
- Do not put film in checked bags - Screening equipment will damage film. Instead, carry film in your carry on bag. The machines used to check carry on bags will not damage film.
- Leave gifts unwrapped – If you put gifts in checked baggage, make sure that they are partially wrapped so that it would be easy for the package to be opened and searched.

Advice for Infrequent Flyers

If you are an infrequent flyer or if you have traveled for a while, a smart thing to do would be to empty all your suitcases and carry on bags before your next flight. Take about absolutely everything, especially items kept in the smaller pouches in your baggage. There may be a number of things in your bags that were quite legal before September 2001, but that now may be prohibited or restricted.

For insights into a number of other recent changes affecting passengers, visit

<http://airsafe.com/novice.htm>

Things You Should Not Bring on Board

Some items should not be carried on an aircraft in either carry-on or checked luggage because of the danger they represent for the passengers and crew. Many of these items are commonly used at work or in the home, but may become a hazard in flight due to changes in temperature and pressure that can cause items to leak, generate toxic fumes or start a fire. Some exemptions are allowed for medical devices and personal care items. If in doubt, check with your air carrier.

New Categories of Banned Items

In the wake of the events of 11 September 2001, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has prohibited the following items from airplane cabins (though they can be carried as checked luggage):

- Knives of any length, composition or description
- Cutting instruments of any kind and composition, including carpet knives and box cutters (and spare blades), any device with a folding or retractable blade, ice picks, straight razors, and metal scissors with pointed tips
- Corkscrews
- Baseball/softball bats
- Golf clubs
- Pool cues
- Ski poles
- Hockey sticks
- Starter Pistols

Other Categories of Banned or Hazardous Items

In addition to items above that can't be carried into the cabin, some items are not allowed even in checked baggage:

Explosives and Firearms: Matches, sparklers, other fireworks, flares, gunpowder, other ordnance, blasting caps, dynamite, loaded firearms, ammunition (some small arms ammunition may be carried in checked baggage if properly packed)

Note: In the United States, federal laws apply to aircraft and to the secure areas of the airport such as the gate areas. State or local laws concerning the carrying of concealed or unconcealed weapons do not apply. Attempting to enter these areas with weapons may lead to your arrest.

Other Weapons and Self Defense Items: Throwing stars, swords, or other items commonly used in martial arts competitions as well as self defense items such as night sticks, mace, pepper spray may be carried in checked baggage. Rules in other countries will vary with respect to the carriage of knives and other weapons.

Gases and Pressure Containers: Flammable aerosols like hair spray, spray paint, or insect repellent; carbon dioxide cartridges, oxygen tanks (scuba or medical), mace, tear gas, pepper spray, self-inflating rafts, and deeply refrigerated gases such as liquid nitrogen

Flammable Liquids and Solids: Gasoline, propane, butane, and other fuels; lights with flammable reservoirs, matches, flammable paints, paint thinners, some cleaning solvents, some adhesives, cigarette lighters, and lighter fluid. Personal care items containing flammable perfume, aerosols, or other hazardous material may be carried on board if each container is less than 16 fluid ounces (473 ml) and the total is less than 70 fluid ounces (2.07 liters).

Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides: Bleach, nitric acid, fertilizers, swimming pool or spa chemicals, and fiberglass repair kits

Poisons: Weed killers, pesticides, insecticides, rodent poisons, arsenic, and cyanides

Infectious Materials: Medical laboratory specimens, viral organisms, and bacterial cultures

Corrosives: Drain cleaners, car batteries, wet cell batteries, acids, alkalis, lye, and mercury

Organics: Fiberglass resins, peroxides

Radioactive Materials: Smoke detectors, radioactive pharmaceuticals, and other radioactive materials

Dry Ice (frozen carbon dioxide): Up to four pounds (1.8 kg) may be carried on board for packing perishables providing the package is vented

Magnetic Materials: Strong magnets such as those in some loudspeakers and laboratory equipment

Other items: Wet-cell batteries, chemical oxygen generators (either used or unused), or any equipment containing fuel or other flammable liquids

Declaring Hazardous Materials: In the U.S., you must declare hazardous materials to airlines, express package carriers, or the U.S. Postal Service. Violations carry a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 for each occurrence and, in appropriate cases, a criminal penalty of up to \$500,000 and/or up to five years imprisonment.

For updates to what items are banned and restricted on airliners, check with AirSafe.com at <http://airsafe.com/danger.htm>



Permitted and Prohibited Items

While there are several classes of items that are clearly not allowed on an aircraft, there are many categories that may be allowed in some circumstances. If you bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint, you may be prosecuted for a criminal or a civil offense or, at the least, asked to rid yourself of the item. A screener or other security official will make this determination, depending on what the item is and the circumstances. Keep in mind that activities the secure areas of an airport are subject to federal laws and regulations and not to state and local laws and regulations of that particular community. For example, while it is legal in many areas of the U.S. to have weapons in your possession, it is not legal to do so in the secure areas of an airport.

Your prohibited item may be detained for use in an investigation and, if necessary, as evidence in your criminal and/or civil prosecution. If permitted by the screener or other security official, you may be allowed to leave the security checkpoint you're your item and make other arrangements for shipping or storing your item. You can also voluntarily abandon the item. Items that are voluntarily abandoned cannot be recovered and will not be returned to you.

The following chart outlines items that are permitted and items that are prohibited in your carry-on or checked baggage. You should note that some items are allowed in your checked baggage, but not your carry-on. Also pay careful attention to the "Notes" included at the bottom of each section – they contain important information about restrictions.

The prohibited and permitted items chart is not intended to be all-inclusive and is updated by the TSA as necessary. Keep in mind that a screener or another security official may determine that an item that is not on the prohibited items chart is a hazard and will not allow you to carry it on board the aircraft. It is also possible that an item is permitted according to the follow chart is considered to be dangerous and may not be allowed on the aircraft.

For updates and for more information, visit the TSA website at www.TSATravelTips.us their Consumer Response Center at 1-866-289-9673.

The following tables were taken from a 19 December 2002 press release from the Transportation Security Administration describing new TSA guidelines for passengers checking baggage. The information in these tables apply to flights originating within the United States. Please check with your airline or travel agent for restrictions at destinations outside of the United States.

Can I take it?	Carry-on	Checked
Personal Items		
Cigar Cutters	Yes	Yes
Corkscrews	Yes	Yes
Cuticle Cutters	Yes	Yes
Eyeglass Repair Tools (including screwdrivers)	Yes	Yes
Eyelash Curlers	Yes	Yes
Knitting and Crochet Needles	Yes	Yes
Knives, round-bladed butter or plastic	Yes	Yes
Nail Clippers	Yes	Yes
Nail Files	Yes	Yes
Personal care or toiletries with aerosols, in limited quantities (such as hairsprays, deodorants)	Yes	Yes
Safety Razors (including disposable razors)	Yes	Yes
Scissors-plastic or metal with blunt tips	Yes	Yes
Scissors-metal with pointed tips	No	Yes
Toy Transformer Robots	Yes	Yes
Toy Weapons (if not realistic replicas)	Yes	Yes
Tweezers	Yes	Yes
Umbrellas (allowed in carry-on baggage once they have been inspected to ensure that prohibited items are not concealed)	Yes	Yes
Walking Canes (allowed in carry-on baggage once they have been inspected to ensure that prohibited items are not concealed)	Yes	Yes
<u>Note</u> Some <u>personal care items containing aerosol</u> are regulated as hazardous materials. The FAA regulates hazardous materials. This information is summarized at http://cas.faa.gov/these.html		
Medication and Special Needs Devices		
Braille Note-Taker, Slate and Stylus, Augmentation Devices	Yes	Yes
Diabetes-Related Supplies/Equipment , (once inspected to ensure prohibited items are not concealed) including: insulin and insulin loaded dispensing products; vials or box of individual vials; jet injectors; pens; infusers; and preloaded syringes; and an unlimited number of unused syringes, when accompanied by insulin; lancets; blood glucose meters; blood glucose meter test strips; insulin pumps; and insulin pump supplies. Insulin in any form or dispenser must be properly marked with a professionally printed label identifying the medication or manufacturer's name or pharmaceutical label.	Yes	Yes
Nitroglycerine pills or spray for medical use (if properly marked with a professionally printed label identifying the medication or manufacturer's name or pharmaceutical label)	Yes	Yes
Prosthetic Device Tools and Appliances , including drill, allen wrenches, pullsleeves used to put on or remove prosthetic devices, if carried by the individual with the prosthetic device or his or her companion	Yes	Yes

Can I take it?	Carry-on	Checked
Electronic Devices		
Camcorders	Yes	Yes
Camera Equipment	Yes	Yes
The checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film in camera equipment. We recommend that you either put undeveloped film and cameras containing undeveloped film in your carry-on baggage or take undeveloped film with you to the checkpoint and ask the screener to conduct a hand-inspection.		
Laptop Computers	Yes	Yes
Mobile Phones	Yes	Yes
Pagers	Yes	Yes
Personal Data Assistants (PDA's)	Yes	Yes
Note Check with your airline or travel agent for restrictions on the use of these and other electronic items during your flight.		
Sharp Objects		
Box Cutters	No	Yes
Ice Axes/Ice Picks	No	Yes
Knives (any length and type except round-bladed, butter, and plastic cutlery)	No	Yes
Meat Cleavers	No	Yes
Razor-Type Blades , such as box cutters, utility knives, razor blades not in a cartridge, <u>but excluding safety razors</u>	No	Yes
Sabers	No	Yes
Scissors – metal with pointed tips	No	Yes
Scissors with plastic or metal blunt tips are permitted in your carry-on.		
Swords	No	Yes
Note Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.		
Sporting Goods		
Baseball Bats	No	Yes
Bows and Arrows	No	Yes
Cricket Bats	No	Yes
Golf Clubs	No	Yes
Hockey Sticks	No	Yes
Lacrosse Sticks	No	Yes
Pool Cues	No	Yes
Ski Poles	No	Yes
Spear Guns	No	Yes
Note Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and security screeners.		

Can I take it?	Carry-on	Checked
Guns and Firearms		
Ammunition	No	Yes
Check with your airline or travel agent to see if ammunition is permitted in checked baggage on the airline you are flying. If ammunition is permitted, it must be declared to the airline at check-in. Small arms ammunitions for personal use must be securely packed in fiber, wood or metal boxes, or other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition. Ask about limitations or fees, if any, that apply.		
BB guns	No	Yes
Compressed Air Guns	No	Yes
Firearms	No	Yes
Flare Guns	No	No
Gun Lighters	No	No
Gun Powder	No	No
Parts of Guns and Firearms	No	Yes
Pellet Guns	No	Yes
Realistic Replicas of Firearms	No	Yes
Starter Pistols	No	Yes
Note Check with your airline or travel agent to see if firearms are permitted in checked baggage on the airline you are flying. Ask about limitations or fees, if any, that apply. Firearms carried as checked baggage MUST be unloaded, packed in a locked hard-sided gun case, and declared to the airline at check-in. Only you, the passenger, may have the key or combination.		
Tools		
Axes and Hatchets	No	Yes
Cattle Prods	No	Yes
Crowbars	No	Yes
Hammers	No	Yes
Drills (including cordless portable power drills)	No	Yes
Saws (including cordless portable power saws)	No	Yes
Screwdrivers (except those in eyeglass repair kits)	No	Yes
Tools (including but not limited to wrenches and pliers)	No	Yes
Wrenches and Pliers	No	Yes
Note Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and security screeners.		
Martial Arts/Self Defense Items		
Billy Clubs	No	Yes
Black Jacks	No	Yes
Brass Knuckles	No	Yes
Kubaton	No	Yes
Mace/Pepper Spray	No	Yes
One 118 ml or 4 Fl. oz. container of <u>mace</u> or <u>pepper spray</u> is permitted in checked baggage provided it is equipped with a safety mechanism to prevent accidental discharge. For more information on these and other hazardous materials, visit http://cas.faa.gov/these.html .		
Martial Arts Weapons	No	Yes
Night Sticks	No	Yes
Nunchakus	No	Yes

Can I take it?	Carry-on	Checked
Martial Arts/Self Defense Items		
Stun Guns/Shocking Devices	No	Yes
Throwing Stars	No	Yes
<p>Note Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and security screeners.</p>		
Explosive Materials		
Blasting caps	No	No
Dynamite	No	No
Fireworks	No	No
Flares in any form	No	No
Hand Grenades	No	No
Plastic Explosives	No	No
Flammable Items		
Aerosol (any except for personal care or toiletries in limited quantities)	No	No
Fuels (including cooking fuels and any flammable liquid fuel)	No	No
Gasoline	No	No
Gas Torches	No	No
Lighter Fluid	No	No
Strike-anywhere Matches	No	No
Turpentine and paint thinner	No	No
<p>Note There are other hazardous materials that are regulated by the FAA. This information is summarized at http://cas.faa.gov/these.html</p>		
Disabling Chemicals and Other Dangerous Items		
Chlorine for pools and spas	No	No
Compressed Gas Cylinders (including fire extinguishers)	No	No
Liquid Bleach	No	No
Spillable Batteries (except those in wheelchairs)	No	No
Spray Paint	No	No
Tear Gas	No	No
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