



Prepare for check-in

Security guidelines

With a little preparation, there's a lot you can do to make sure your journey through airport security is as quick and hassle-free as possible. Here are a few things to consider.

What can I take?

Security is really important in air travel, and making sure passengers only bring on board appropriate items is one of our biggest responsibilities. Knowing what's allowed and what's not allowed before you arrive could save you, and other passengers, time and inconvenience.

Drinks

You're welcome to take drinks in cans, bottles, plastic containers and cartons, but the containers can't be over 100ml. They also need to be carried in a transparent and re-sealable bag. Remember, once through security you can buy drinks in the departure area to take on to the plane.

Food

You can carry fruit, vegetables and all solid foods in your hand baggage. However, foods in sauces or with a high liquid content (such as sauces, pastes, soups and stews) need to go in a transparent bag, along with your drinks. These can't exceed 100ml either.

Baby products

Only carry what you need for the trip. Wet wipes and powdered baby food are fine, but you'll be asked to taste the following:

- Baby milk
- Sterilised water
- Baby juice
- Baby food in liquid, gel or paste form

When bringing pushchairs, prams or buggies, you'll need to lift your child out during X-ray checks. You can take car seats on to the plane – they don't count as your single bag.

Electrical items

Some airport security checkpoints may ask you to remove MP3 and CD players, portable DVD players and laptops from your luggage to be screened separately. Digital cameras and mobile phones can stay in your hand baggage or jacket to be X-rayed. You can also bring gas hair tongs, but remember to pack spare canisters in baggage you are checking in.

Cosmetics and toiletries

You can bring solid deodorants, lipsticks, brushes, combs and toothbrushes on board. One or two pairs of disposable contact lenses (in sealed packaging) are also allowed, as are non-disposable lenses with a small amount of solution. Only fully disposable razors and razor cartridges are allowed in hand baggage.

The following products are limited to 100ml, and must also go in a transparent bag, along with drinks and liquid-based foods:

- Hairspray and other aerosol items
- Creams
- Roll-on deodorants
- Sun-tanning products
- Lip gloss or lip balms
- Liquid soap
- Toothpaste
- Mascara
- Contact lens solution



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Medicines and medical equipment

Medicines can't exceed the 100ml maximum, and must be kept in a transparent, re-sealable bag. (There's no limit for powder or pills.) If your medical needs mean you must carry more, you'll need approval from your airline. Always carry your prescription with you, or a statement from a medical professional.

Insulin, epipen, hypodermic needles and medicines must be tested and verified by the passenger (as must children's medicine). Inhalers are allowed in hand luggage, but you must pack spare canisters in your hold baggage. As for essential medical equipment, you'll need prior approval from your airline (unless it fits within your hand baggage), and we ask you to clearly mark it as 'essential medical equipment'.

Remember, non-prescription medicines for children and adults can be purchased after you've gone through security.

Smoking materials

Cigarettes and other tobacco products are all allowed in hand baggage. Please note matches and lighters are not allowed in hand or checked in baggage. You may take a single lighter or a box of safety matches on board the aircraft but only if carried on your person.

Smoking is not permitted inside the terminal building.

Writing materials

Ball point pens, rollerball pens, gel pens and pencils are allowed, as are fountain pens with a single (open) cartridge in use, but any refills cannot exceed 100ml.

Miscellaneous

Books, puzzles, games and stickers are all welcome on board. Hat boxes, sports equipment and wedding dresses all constitute an item of hand baggage. You can bring musical instruments in addition to your hand baggage allowance.

Sharp items

Almost all sharp items are forbidden from hand baggage, including:

- Toy or replica guns
- Catapults/slingshots
- Razor blades
- Sport bats/clubs/cues
- Scissors (Except round-ended blades or blades less than 3cm long)
- Knives
- Tools
- Darts
- Cutlery
- Hypodermic syringes (Unless for medical reasons)

Forbidden anywhere on the aircraft

- Acids
- Poisons
- Flammable liquids
- Explosives
- Matches/Lighters (except on your person)
- Bleach
- Incapacitating sprays
- Ignitable gas devices
- Compressed gas



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Travelling checklist

The more you know about our check-in and security processes, the easier it will be to pass through as fast and hassle-free as possible.

Before leaving home

- Make sure you know your baggage allowance and size restrictions for both hand baggage and baggage you are checking in. Remember, these may differ between airlines, so check with them.
- Limit your hand baggage to items you really think you'll need on board.
- Remember, all liquids, aerosols and gels in your hand baggage need to fit in a transparent and re-sealable bag, 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches). Check details for medical and dietary exemptions.
- Plan to arrive at the airport early, just in case you need extra time at security.
- Contact your airline if you have any queries about how everything works.

Check-in

- If you're unsure, you can check the size of your hand baggage in gauges by the check-in desks.
- You'll be asked questions about your baggage contents.
- We recommend you move right on to security after checking-in, just in case of any delays.

Going through security

- Be prepared. For example, have your passport, boarding pass and any transparent re-sealable bags ready for inspection.
- If you're carrying any liquid medicines or baby foods in your hand baggage, take them out for inspection.

- Remember, you can leave keys, coins, wallets and mobile phones in your jacket or coat pockets, but take off your coat while you're in the queue so you're ready for the X-ray machines.
- Large electrical items, such as laptops, may need to go through X-ray machines separately, so get them ready by taking them out of your hand luggage – look out for signs telling you what to do.
- Don't forget, you might need to take your shoes off.
- Your coat, transparent bag (including medicines) and, if asked, your shoes all need to go in one tray. Some airports may ask you to remove large electrical items and screen these in a separate tray.
- You will probably be asked to sample items from your plastic bag either by tasting them or by rubbing them on your skin, to make sure they're safe.
- Staff may search your bags after the X-ray, and you may be asked to undergo a body search.

In the departure lounge

- Anything you buy in the departure lounge, you can take on to the aeroplane
- If you're travelling within the EU, you can buy items and then arrange to pick them up on your return trip. Ask a member of staff about this free Shopping Collection service.

At the gate

- If you're travelling to the US, you might come across further security checks at the gate, before boarding.