

Travel and transport

Dangerous and restricted items: what you cannot take on board a flight



The UK has strict security measures in place to keep dangerous items from being taken on board a flight. Check what you can and can't take in your hand baggage (bags you carry onto the aircraft with you) and what can go in your checked-in or hold baggage.

Know what you can take on your flight

Liquids in hand baggage

There are strict rules in place about carrying liquids in your hand luggage. 'Liquids' includes gels, sprays and pastes. For full details follow the link below.

[Air travel hand baggage rules](#)

Dangerous or restricted items

You can't take any objects in your hand baggage that could cause injury to yourself and other passengers. You may be able to take some of these items in your hold baggage (the luggage you check in) instead.

If an item is not allowed in your hand baggage this means you can't take it into the shopping areas of the airport (sometimes called 'airside') or cabin of the plane at any time.

Be aware that airport security staff may confiscate anything they consider dangerous, even if it is not on the lists below.

Use the tables below to check what you can and can't take aboard when you fly.

If you have any questions about what you can take, you should contact your airline or airport directly.

Personal items

Items	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Corkscrew	no	yes
Spoon	yes	yes
Knife (with a sharp or pointed blade and/or a blade longer than 6cm)	no	yes
Small scissors (with blades no longer than 6cm)	yes	yes
Large scissors (with blades longer than 6cm)	no	yes
Round-ended/blunt scissors (of any length)	yes	yes

Fixed-cartridge razor blade (disposable razor)	yes	yes
Nail clippers/nail file	yes	yes
Tweezers	yes	yes
Knitting needles	yes	yes
Sewing needle	yes	yes
Umbrella	yes	yes
Walking stick/cane, walking aid	yes	yes
Pushchair	yes	yes
Wheelchair	yes	yes
Safety matches	yes	no
'Strike anywhere' matches (non-safety matches)	no	no
Fireworks, flares and other pyrotechnics, including party poppers and toy caps	no	no
Cigarette lighter	no (but you may carry a single lighter on your person)	no
Contact lens solution	yes (but no more than 100ml)	yes

For detailed information on carrying liquids in your hand baggage follow the link below.

[Air travel hand baggage rules](#)

Electronic items and electrical goods

Note that you can't use electronic devices at certain times during a flight. The flight crew will advise you or you can find more information on the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) website - follow the link below this table.

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Mobile phone	yes (but you must not use your mobile once the aircraft doors have closed)	yes
Laptop	yes	yes
MP3/CD/tape player	yes	yes
Camcorder	yes	yes
Pager	yes	yes
PDA/Blackberry	yes	yes
Hairdryer or hair straighteners	yes	yes
Camera and camera equipment	yes	yes
Travel iron	yes	yes
Electric razor/shaver	yes	yes

[CAA information on mobile phones on aircraft](#)

Sporting equipment

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Sports parachute	yes	yes
Bat, racquet or sports stick	no	yes
Snooker, pool or billiard cue	no	yes
Golf clubs	no	yes
Darts	no	yes
Walking/hiking poles	no	yes
Ice skates	no	yes
Fishing rod	no	yes
Catapult	no	yes
Firearms (including replica firearms)	no	check with airline before you travel
Harpoon or spear gun	no	yes
Crossbow	no	yes
Martial arts equipment, including knuckledusters, clubs, coshes, rice flails and nuchucks	no	yes
Diving equipment (note that oxygen cylinders for diving are not allowed either in hand baggage or hold baggage)	yes	yes

Work tools

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Tool with a blade or shaft longer than 6cm (screwdriver, chisel etc.)	no	yes
Drill and drill bits	no	yes
Stanley knife	no	yes
Saw (includes portable power saw)	no	yes
Screwdriver	no	yes
Hammer	no	yes
Pliers	no	yes
Wrench or spanner	no	yes
Bolt gun or nail gun	no	yes
Crowbar	no	yes
Blowtorch	no	yes

Medication and medical equipment

You may be asked to prove that any medication or medical equipment is necessary for the duration of your trip. You can do this by showing a copy of your prescription or a letter from your doctor. Only take in your hand baggage what you need for the trip.

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Cooling gel packs	yes (but you will need approval from the airline or airport)	yes
Medical equipment (CPAP and TENS machines, etc.)	yes	yes
Tablets and capsules	yes (there is no restriction on the number of tablets or capsules you can carry)	yes
Essential liquid medicines	yes (but you will need approval from the airline or airport to carry over 100ml)	yes
Hypodermic syringes	yes	yes
Inhalers	yes	yes
Oxygen cylinders	yes (but always check with your airline first)	no

For detailed information on carrying liquids in your hand baggage follow the link below.

[Air travel hand baggage rules](#)

Baby food and baby milk

You are allowed to take enough baby food or milk for the journey in your cabin baggage. In some cases this may be over 100ml. The adult carrying the baby food or milk may be asked to taste it.

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Breast milk, formula milk or cow's milk	yes (but only if baby is travelling with the parent)	yes
Powdered milk	yes (with no restriction on the amount that can be carried)	yes
Sterilised water	yes (but must be in a baby's bottle)	yes
Soya milk for babies	yes	yes
Baby food of various consistencies	yes	yes

For detailed information on carrying liquid in your hand baggage follow the link below.

[Air travel hand baggage rules](#)

Chemicals and toxic substances

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Oxidisers and organic peroxides, including bleach and car body repair kits	no	no
Acids and alkalis (spillable 'wet' batteries etc.)	no	no
Corrosives or bleaching agents, including mercury and chlorine	no	no
Vehicle batteries and vehicle fuel systems	no	no
Defensive/disabling sprays including mace, pepper spray and tear gas	no	no
Radioactive materials, including medicinal or commercial isotopes	no	no
Poisons and toxic substances, including rat poison	no	no
Infectious substances or biological hazards (infected blood, bacteria, viruses etc.)	no	no
Material that could spontaneously ignite or combust (burst into flames)	no	no
Fire extinguishers	no	no

Ammunition

Item	Allowed in hand baggage?	Allowed in hold baggage?
Guns or firearms of any kind (includes air rifles, starting pistols etc.)	no	check with airline before you travel
Blasting caps	no	no
Detonators and fuses	no	no
Replica or imitation explosive devices, including replica and model guns	no	no
Mines, grenades and other explosive military stores	no	no
Fireworks and other pyrotechnics	no	no
Smoke canisters	no	no
Smoke cartridges	no	no
Dynamite	no	no
Gunpowder	no	no
Plastic explosive, including black powder and percussion caps	no	no
Flares in any form	no	no

Hand grenades	no	no
Gun cigarette lighters	no	no

Useful contacts

[ABTA \(Association of British Travel Agents\)](#) __

[ATOL \(Air Travel Organisers' Licensing\)](#) __

[AUC \(Air Transport Users Council\)](#) __

[BAA \(formerly British Airports Authority\)](#) __

[IATA \(International Air Transport Association\)](#) __

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