



STOVES ON A PLANE

Travel advice from an FAA expert

You're about to board a flight to Montana for a week-long trek when you're pulled out of line to explain your trusty white-gas burner. "This scenario happens more often than we like," says Dennis Juenemann, a FAA Hazardous Materials Specialist based in Ft. Worth TX. Since backpacking gear can run afoul of multiple safety rules, he recommends hikers be cautious and follow these strategies for hassle-free travel.

STOVES Only new stoves in their original packaging are always allowed. Used stoves must be cleaned of all burn deposits and odours to pass inspection. Liquid-fuel stoves are refused more often than canister burners because they retain more residues, says Juenemann. Scrub stoves thoroughly with soapy water, and pack them in checked luggage. To avoid trouble, BACKPACKER editors mail stoves and fuel bottles to your destination.



FUEL Like stoves, brand-new and empty liquid fuel bottles are okay, but used containers must be completely cleaned out. "If there's any kind of fuel smell, it hasn't been purged," says Juenemann. Pack them uncapped and easily accessible in your checked luggage. Full bottles and gas canisters are forbidden.

LIGHTERS As of August 2007, you can pack butane lighters in carry-on luggage, along with one book of safety matches. Both items are prohibited in checked baggage.

BATTERIES Alkaline, NiMH, and NiCad types are fine, but passengers cannot pack spare lithium metal batteries (used in many cameras and GPS units) in checked luggage. Put them in your carry-on bag.

LIQUIDS Bear sprays exceed the 4-fluid-ounce limit established by the TSA for self-defence sprays in checked baggage. Ship it ahead of time, or buy it at your destination.



Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1

3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3 ounce bottle or less (by volume)

1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be in three-ounce or smaller containers.

Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are *not allowed*. You are permitted to bring solid cosmetics and personal hygiene items as such lipstick, lip balm and similar solids. Each container must be three ounces or smaller. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in a single, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Each traveller can use only one, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag.

Consolidate bottles into one bag and X-ray separately to speed screening.

Each traveller must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bag from their carry-on and place it in a bin for X-ray screening. X-raying separately will allow TSA security officers to more easily examine the declared items.

3-1-1 is for short trips.

If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage. TSA carry-on compliant lightweight paper soap, shampoo, and laundry soap are available in many travel and camping stores and are not subject to 3-1-1 regulations.

Declare larger liquids

Medications, baby formula* and food*, breast milk*, and juice* are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. These items must be declared for inspection at the checkpoint.

Remember lock your checked baggage *only* with TSA compliant locks

Come early and be patient. Heavy travel volumes and the enhanced security process may mean longer lines at security checkpoints.

*if a baby or small child is travelling.

