

Prohibited and restricted goods

There are certain goods that you are not allowed to import or carry into the Turks and Caicos Islands, these are prohibited goods. There are other goods that can only be imported legally with the necessary licence or permit, these are restricted goods.

This is to protect society, health and the environment. If you are not sure about any of the goods you are bringing into the Turks and Caicos Islands, you should contact an officer of the department.

Prohibited goods

The following goods are banned completely:

- **Illegal drugs** such as heroin, morphine, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, LSD and cannabis.
- **Offensive weapons** such as flick and gravity knives, butterfly knives, push daggers, belt-buckle knives, throwing stars, swordsticks, knuckledusters, blowpipes, spear guns, spring loaded batons and some martial arts equipment.
- **Self defence sprays** containing noxious or inflammatory gas or liquids.
- **Stun guns** or incapacitating weapons that momentarily disable a person with an electric shock or directed energy.
- **Indecent or obscene materials** including books, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and software, sex toys. This includes:
 - Material featuring children;
 - Material containing extreme violence or cruelty; and
 - Any other pornography that cannot be legally bought in Turks and Caicos Islands.

Please note that this is not exhaustive, but it includes important examples.

Restricted goods

The following goods can only be brought into the Turks and Caicos Islands if you have the relevant permit:

Firearms, explosives and ammunition

These include blank firing or replica firearms that can be converted to fire bullets.

For further information and advice, and information concerning licences and permits, please contact:

**Commissioner of Police
Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force
Caribbean Place
Leeward Highway**

Live animals

This includes fish, crustaceans, molluscs, insects, cats, dogs and birds. All animals (including pets) arriving in the Turks and Caicos Islands are required to be accompanied by health documents as well as an Import Permit issued in advance by the Department of Agriculture.

Animals arriving without proper documentation will be refused entry and will be immediately returned to the country of origin or euthanised, at the owner's expense. For further information and advice visit the Department of Agriculture.

Plants, fruit, vegetables and plant products

All **plants** arriving in the Turks and Caicos Islands are required to be accompanied by an importation permit issued in advance by the Department of Agriculture.

Smuggling goods

Importing goods that are banned or for which you do not have the necessary licence or permit is illegal. If you are caught smuggling, your goods will be seized and you may face prosecution and imprisonment.

It is important that you:

- Never bring prohibited (banned) goods to the Turks and Caicos Islands;
- If you are making a declaration on behalf of any other members of your household, make sure those household members know what goods are prohibited and restricted. As the principal declarant you may be held responsible;
- Never smuggle an animal into the Turks and Caicos Islands. Pets can carry rabies and other diseases, which could have disastrous consequences.