

Traveling Through Security Hassle-Free

Traveling for business or pleasure has become just a part of life for so many of us. That doesn't mean getting through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security at each airport is any easier—it just means we learn to plan a little extra time. **Here are a few tips to help you “travel” through security at the airport.**

Hassle-free Security Tips

- **Arrive on time.** Check with your carrier; arrival time recommendations vary by airline and day of travel. Give yourself adequate time to check your baggage and move through security.
- **Have the following ready** to present to a TSA officer at the checkpoint: (1) Boarding pass; (2) Identification.
- **Wear slip-on shoes.** This allows you to take them off and put them back on quickly, without having to sit down.
- **Children.** Take infants and children out of baby carriers and strollers and take them through the metal detector with you. Strollers and baby carriers go through the X-ray machine with your bags. Collapse your stroller before arriving at the metal detector if possible.
- **Pets.** Remove animals from their carrying cases and send the case through the X-ray machine. Holding your pet in your arms, proceed through the metal detector.
- **Think before you speak.** Belligerent behavior, inappropriate jokes and threats will not be tolerated. They will result in delays and possibly missing your flight. Local law enforcement may be called as necessary.
- **Be mindful of items that might set off the metal detector such as:**
 - Keys, loose change, mobile phones, pagers, and personal data assistants (PDAs)
 - Heavy jewelry (including pins, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, earrings, body piercings, cuff links, lanyards or bolo ties)
 - Clothing with metal buttons, snaps or studs
 - Metal hair barrettes or other hair decoration
 - Belt buckles
 - Under-wire bras

Smart Packing Tips

- Pack your carry-on bag in layers – a layer of clothes, then electronic, more clothes, topped off with any heavier items. This will help transportation security officers see what's in your bag. Innocent items can actually appear to be potential threats in an X-ray image, simply by the way they're packed.



- Do not pack oversized electronics (*laptops, full-size video game consoles, DVD players and video cameras that use cassettes*) in your checked baggage. If unavoidable, you will be required to remove these items from your carry-on bag and submit them separately for x-ray screening. *Small electronics, such as iPods, may remain in your carry-on.*
- Prepare your one quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag of liquids before arriving at the airport.
- Coats and jackets must go through the X-ray machine for inspection. If possible, pack them in your checked baggage.
- Wait to wrap gifts until you've reached your final destination; if a security officer needs to inspect a package, they may have to unwrap your gift.
- Undeveloped film should go in your carry-on bag. To avoid it being X-rayed, you will be able to request film faster than 800-speed be physically inspected by a transportation security officer.
- **When in doubt, leave it out.** If you're not sure about whether you can bring an item through the checkpoint, put it in your checked bag or leave it at home.