

# CROSSING BACK INTO CANADA

## What can I bring back with me?

When you return to Canada, duties and taxes are applicable on all purchases unless you qualify for a personal exemption. Personal exemptions allow you to bring goods of a certain value into the country without paying the regular duties. If you have been outside Canada for:

- 24 hours or more, you can bring in CAN\$50 worth of goods free of duty and tax;
  - If the goods you bring in are worth more than CAN\$50 in total, you cannot claim this exemption. Instead you have to pay full applicable duties and taxes on all goods you bring in.
- 48 hours or more, you can bring in CAN\$400 worth of goods free of duty and tax;
- 7 days or more, you can bring in CAN\$750 worth of goods free of duty and tax.

Alcohol and Tobacco - Restrictions apply to the amount of alcohol and tobacco you can bring into Canada under your exemption. If you have been outside Canada for at least 48 hours and are of legal age, you can bring in these amounts of alcohol and tobacco products free of duty and tax as part of your personal exemption:

### Alcoholic beverages:

- 1.14 L (40 oz.) of liquor; or
- 1.5 L of wine; or
- 24 X 355 ml (12 oz.) containers of beer.

### Tobacco products (all of the following):

- 200 cigarettes;
- 50 cigars or cigarillos;
- 200 tobacco sticks; and
- 200 g (7 oz.) of manufactured tobacco.

If you bring in more than the free allowance of alcohol or tobacco, you will be required to pay the applicable duties and taxes.

As of October 1, 2001, if you include cigarettes, tobacco sticks, or loose tobacco in your personal exemption allowance, only a partial exemption will apply. You will have to pay a minimum duty on these products unless they are marked "CANADA - DUTY PAID - DROIT ACQUITTÉ." You will find Canadian-made products sold at a duty-free shop marked this way. You can speed up your clearance by having your tobacco products available for inspection when you arrive.

## What if I want to bring back more alcohol and tobacco?

Except for restricted items, you can bring back any amount of goods as long as you are willing to pay the duties and any provincial and territorial assessments that may apply.

## Restricted items / Prohibited Items

Handguns and weapons like mace and pepper spray are prohibited from entering Canada. Also, some fruits, vegetables, meats and plants from other countries cannot be brought into Canada. Review our travellers' [frequently asked questions](#) for more information.

## What if I'm away for only a few hours?

If you don't qualify for a personal exemption, you can still bring back any amount of goods - except for restricted items - as long as you are willing to pay the duties and any provincial and territorial assessments that may apply.

## Keep all your receipts handy

CBSA officers may ask you to show receipts for the goods you've purchased while out of the country. They may also ask to see your hotel receipts to verify the length of your stay outside Canada. Keeping these items all together and readily accessible will help to avoid unnecessary delays.

## Make a full declaration

If you are not sure what to declare when you arrive in Canada, declare all items first and then discuss them with the officer.

## Be patient

Summer holidays and long weekends usually mean longer lines at the border. Be sure to add this time to your travel itinerary.

## *What are my personal exemptions?*

Personal exemptions allow you to bring goods of a certain value into the country without having to pay duty and taxes on them.

If you are a Canadian travelling to the United States just for the day (less than 24 hours), no exemption applies to the goods you bring back to Canada. You will have to pay the regular duty and taxes on those goods.

<b>Length of absence from Canada</b>	<b>\$ Exemption</b> (The value of goods you can bring back duty-free and tax-free to Canada)	<b>Alcohol products</b>	<b>Tobacco products</b>
Less than 24 hours	\$0	Not applicable	Not applicable
24 hours	\$50 <b>Note:</b> If the goods you bring in are worth more than CAN\$50 in total, you cannot	Not applicable	Not applicable

	claim the 24-hour exemption. Instead you will have to pay the full applicable duties and taxes on all the goods you bring in.		
48 hours	\$400	<p>Only <b>ONE</b> of the following items can be imported both duty-free and tax-free:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 litres (53 imperial ounces) of wine;</li> <li>• 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of liquor;</li> <li>• a total of 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of wine and liquor; or</li> <li>• 24 x 355 millilitre (12 ounces) cans or bottles (maximum of 8.5 litres) of beer or ale.</li> </ul>	<p>All of the following items can be imported both duty-free and tax-free:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 cigarettes;</li> <li>• 50 cigars or cigarillos;</li> <li>• 200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco; and</li> <li>• 200 tobacco sticks.</li> </ul>
7 days	\$750	Same as 48-hour absence	Same as 48-hour absence