

Working with bees overseas

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Planning on working with bees while you're overseas? There are import requirements and decontamination procedures you must follow before your return to Australia.

Varroa is the most damaging honey bee pest worldwide. Despite a number of incursions and border detections, Australia is currently still free of varroa.

The Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources considers that all items used whilst beekeeping (including clothing and shoes) are considered "used beekeeping equipment" and as such require an import permit to bring them into Australia.

Information and applications for import permits to legally bring these items into Australia can be found online at <https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0>

Varroa can live for at least 5 days without a bee host and up to 28 days on brood comb outside of a hive.

You must minimise the biosecurity risks of importing used beekeeping equipment into Australia.

The most secure option is to **not bring any used beekeeping equipment into Australia.**

If items must be brought back into Australia you will need an import permit.

All items should be disinfected as per the obligations of any visitor to a farm or agricultural area overseas.

Shoes should be thoroughly scrubbed and washed to remove any biological material and then treated with bleach.

Regular clothing should be thoroughly washed and dried.

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