

# What is not allowed in a carry-on bag at United?(FAQ & Help)

When flying with **United Airlines**, there are strict rules about what is **not allowed in a carry-on bag**, and these rules are based mainly on **TSA security regulations**, which United enforces at all airports. One of the most common restrictions involves **liquids, gels, and aerosols**. Any liquid item over **3.4 ounces (100 ml)** is not permitted in carry-on luggage. This includes large bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, perfume, drinks, and liquid cosmetics. All allowed liquids must fit into one clear, quart-size bag. Items that exceed this limit must be packed in checked baggage or discarded at security.

Another major category of prohibited items is **sharp objects**. United does not allow knives of any kind, box cutters, razor blades (except disposable razors), scissors with blades longer than four inches, multitools with blades, or any sharp metal objects in carry-on bags. These items are considered safety risks and will be confiscated at the security checkpoint. In the same way, **tools** such as hammers, screwdrivers longer than seven inches, drills, crowbars, and wrenches are not allowed in carry-on luggage and must be checked instead.

**Weapons and weapon-like items** are strictly forbidden in carry-on bags. This includes firearms, ammunition, BB guns, airsoft guns, stun guns, tasers, and realistic replicas of weapons. Firearms can only be transported in checked luggage under strict declaration and packing rules. Explosive and flammable items are also prohibited. These include fireworks, flares, gasoline, lighter fluid, camping fuel, aerosol paint, and certain chemicals. Even some everyday items like large power banks or damaged lithium batteries may be restricted due to fire hazards.

**Sporting goods** are another group of items not allowed in carry-on bags. Baseball bats, golf clubs, hockey sticks, pool cues, ski poles, and martial arts equipment must be checked because they can be used as weapons. Self-defense items such as pepper spray or mace are also generally not allowed in carry-on luggage and may be restricted even in checked bags depending on size and strength.

Food is usually allowed, but **liquid or gel-like foods** such as soups, sauces, gravies, yogurt, and peanut butter must follow the liquid size rule. Alcohol above certain strength limits is also restricted.

In summary, United does not allow large liquids, sharp objects, weapons, flammable materials, certain tools, sporting equipment, and hazardous items in carry-on bags. Following these rules helps ensure safety, smooth security screening, and a stress-free travel experience.

