



Avoid baggie blunders

How many ways can you confuse the new rules about bringing liquids and gels through airport security? Lots, apparently. And security lines in many airports have been jammed as a result, said Darrin Kayser, spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration.

The rules state that you may bring through security as many three-ounce (or smaller) containers that will fit into a one-quart zip-top plastic bag. Here are common mistakes:

- **Emptying liquids and gels into the bag.** “It happens,” Kayser says. Butch Titcomb of Chester, Va., reports that he witnessed one case in Charlotte, N.C., in which a woman had poured her toiletries into separate baggies and carefully labeled each “shampoo,” “hand lotion,” etc. She told security she had weighed each bag to make sure it wasn’t more than three ounces. Officials let her though, but don’t count on that.
- **Putting large bottles into the bag, then claiming that all but three ounces has been used.** “Security officials don’t have scales and can’t be expected to weigh each container,” Kayser says. “That would create very long lines.”
- **Bringing more than one quart-sized bag per traveler.** The rule is one bag per person.
- **Bringing huge plastic bags.** Quart-sized baggies are 7.5 inches by 8 inches, and the box is labeled “quart-sized.”
- **Bringing bags that fold at the top.** Zip-top bags have a little piece of plastic that fits into a track, like a zipper. Some you press together with your fingers; others have a slide lock.
- **Bringing mesh bags.** Yes, you can see through a mesh bag, but that’s beside the point. You must use a zip-top bag.

For more information, visit the TSA Web site at: <http://www.tsa.gov>

The Washington Post; Tuesday, November 21, 2006 p.23

