Duty-Free Items in The Bahamas

The items you can import with no customs duty, and what you still pay on them.

Duty free isn't tax free.

Duty free means one thing: the item pays no customs duty. It still pays Customs VAT and the processing fee when it clears, and some items carry an environmental levy too.

Customs VAT

10% of the landed cost: the item's value plus the processing fee, any levy, freight, insurance and other charges. Listed health and hygiene goods pay 5%.

Processing fee

1% of the item's value, with a $10 minimum and a $1,000 maximum. Every package that clears pays at least $10.

Environmental levy

A flat fee per item on certain goods, charged even when the item is duty free. VAT is charged on the levy too.

Example: an $800 laptop, duty free

Charge	Amount
Customs duty	$0.00
Processing fee (1% of $800, $10 minimum)	$10.00
Environmental levy	$5.00
Landed cost ($800 + $30 freight + $10 + $5)	$845.00
Customs VAT (10% of $845)	$84.50
Paid to Customs	**$99.50**

Freight of $30 is an example. Mr. Ship It's freight, package protection and the VAT on those services are billed on top.

How to read this list

The **0%** beside each item is its customs duty. Items with no label pay 10% VAT, the processing fee and no levy. **$5 levy** shows the environmental levy per item. **5% VAT** shows items on the reduced VAT list. † marks items that count as hazardous goods on the flight, which carry our $35 hazardous materials charge.

Computers, tablets and electronics		Duty
AirPods		0%
Alarm systems and parts		0%
Amazon Echo		0%
Amazon Fire Stick		0%
Apple Pencil		0%
Apple TV, Android TV and streaming boxes		0%
Barcode scanners	$5 levy	0%
Bluetooth speakers		0%
Cables and adapters (USB, HDMI, Ethernet, audio, optic)		0%
Camera lenses, parts, cases and accessories		0%
Cash registers, POS systems and cash drawers		0%
Cell phone cases, parts and screens		0%
Computer accessories		0%
Computer monitors	$5 levy	0%
Computer parts		0%
Computer software		0%
Computers and laptops	$5 levy	0%
Credit card machines		0%
Digital cameras and camcorders		0%
Docking stations		0%
Drones with cameras		0%
Extension cords		0%
Hard drives	$5 levy	0%
Headphones, earphones and headsets		0%
iPads		0%
Keyboards and mice		0%
Kindle and other e-book readers		0%
Laptop and tablet cases, sleeves and bags		0%
Lithium batteries	$5 levy	0%
Network switches		0%
Printer parts		0%
Printers, including multifunction		0%
Ring lights		0%
Routers and modems		0%
Security and surveillance cameras		0%
Servers		0%
Tablets	$5 levy	0%
Thermal printers	$5 levy	0%
USB drives, hubs and ports		0%
Video doorbell cameras		0%
Webcams		0%

Clothing, bags and accessories	Duty
Brooches and cufflinks	0%
Handbags, purses and wallets	0%
Jewelry boxes	0%
Jewelry making supplies	0%
Jewelry, costume or precious	0%
Lunch bags and boxes	0%
Suitcases, luggage and travel bags	0%
Sunglasses, lenses and accessories	0%
Tote bags	0%
Watches, including smart watches	0%

Beauty and personal care		Duty
Body oil		0%
Body sprays and fragrance mists		0%
Castor oil		0%
Deodorant		0%
Manual toothbrushes and replacement heads		0%
Perfume and cologne †		0%
Raw shea butter		0%
Sanitary pads, tampons and liners	5% VAT	0%
Shampoo		0%
Soap and face wash		0%
Toothpaste		0%

Baby and kids		Duty
Baby and toddler clothing, size 6 and under		0%
Baby bottles and nipples		0%
Baby car seats		0%
Baby carriers		0%
Baby food		0%
Baby gear and supplies		0%
Baby mattresses		0%
Baby potties	$5 levy	0%
Baby walkers		0%
Baby wipes	5% VAT	0%
Bassinets		0%
Breast milk storage bags		0%
Breast pumps		0%
Cribs and playpens		0%
Diaper bags		0%
Diapers and Pampers	5% VAT	0%
High chairs		0%
Juice for babies, 100%		0%

Nursing pads		0%
Pacifiers		0%
Strollers and carriages		0%
Tricycles		0%

Health and medical

		Duty
Alcohol swabs and medicated wipes	5% VAT	0%
Antibacterial ointment		0%
Bandages, medical tape and dressings	5% VAT	0%
Blood glucose meters	5% VAT	0%
Blood glucose test strips		0%
Blood pressure monitors and cuffs	5% VAT	0%
Catheters and urine bags		0%
Chair lifts for people with disabilities and the elderly		0%
Condoms and contraceptives		0%
Contact lenses		0%
Cough drops		0%
Defibrillators		0%
Dental cements and fillings	5% VAT	0%
Dentures and dental instruments		0%
Disposable bed pads	5% VAT	0%
Disposable underwear and adult diapers	5% VAT	0%
DNA test kits		0%
Electric wheelchair batteries	$20 levy	0%
Eye solutions and compresses		0%
Hand sanitizer		0%
Hearing aids		0%
Heart monitors		0%
Heating pads and hot or cold packs		0%
HIV test strips		0%
Incubators		0%
Insulin	5% VAT	0%
Kidney machines and parts		0%
Massagers		0%
Medical and surgical equipment and supplies		0%
Medical and surgical gloves		0%
Medical and surgical instruments	5% VAT	0%
Medicine	10% or 5% VAT	0%
Nicotine patches		0%
Oxygen cannulas		0%
Personal lubricant		0%
Prescription glasses and lenses		0%
Protein powder, shakes and bars		0%
Pulse oximeters		0%
Sea moss		0%
Spirulina		0%
Stethoscopes		0%
Support braces (ankle, back, knee, neck and more)		0%
Surgical caps		0%
Surgical masks and face shields		0%
Syringes, needles and lancets	5% VAT	0%
Teeth braces and bands		0%
Test strips, pregnancy and ovulation tests		0%
Vaporizers		0%
Vitamins and supplements		0%
Walking sticks and canes		0%

Exercise and sport

	Duty
Bicycles	0%
Exercise and resistance bands	0%
Exercise machines and treadmills	0%
Life jackets	0%
Safety headgear	0%
School sporting equipment	0%
Yoga mats	0%

Food and drink

	Duty
100% juice	0%
Baking powder	0%
Bread	0%
Butter	0%
Canned corned beef	0%
Canned fruit cocktail	0%
Canned sardines and fish	0%
Canned soup	0%
Canned tomatoes	0%
Canned tuna	0%
Cereal and corn flakes	0%
Cheese	0%
Coffee	0%
Cooking oil (coconut, corn, sesame, soybean, vegetable)	0%
Cream	0%
Deli meats (beef, ham, turkey and mixtures)	0%
Dried fruit in bulk	0%
Flour, including almond flour	0%
Fresh fruit, except pineapples	0%
Grits	0%
Honey	0%
Hot chocolate	0%

Jams, jellies and marmalade		0%
Ketchup		0%
Mashed potatoes		0%
Mayonnaise		0%
Milk, including evaporated, condensed and skimmed		0%
Nuts and peanuts, individually packaged		0%
Pasta and noodles		0%
Peanut butter and almond butter		0%
Popcorn		0%
Potato chips		0%
Rice		0%
Salmon fillet		0%
Sausage		0%
Seaweed		0%
Seeds for eating		0%
Shrimp		0%
Sugars, syrups and sweeteners		0%
Tea		0%
Tofu		0%
Yogurt		0%

Pets		Duty
Animal medication	5% VAT	0%
Pet food (cat, dog and other animals)		0%
Pet vitamins and supplements		0%

Home and appliances		Duty
Biodegradable containers		0%
Chopsticks		0%
Environmentally friendly garbage bags		0%
Fans, including ceiling fans		0%
Fire extinguishers †		0%
Gift bags		0%
Hand towels		0%
LED bulbs, fixtures and lights		0%
LED lanterns		0%
LED string and Christmas lights		0%
Mini refrigerators for makeup	$15 levy	0%
Paper napkins		0%
Refrigerators with no separate freezer door	$15 levy	0%
Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors		0%
Solar and hybrid air conditioners	$10 levy	0%
Stoves, 30 inches and under	$5 levy	0%
Tablecloths		0%
Toilet brushes		0%
Toilet paper		0%
Washing detergent and Tide Pods		0%

Building, solar and garden		Duty
Bug zapper lamps		0%
Cement		0%
Doors, wood, aluminum and other		0%
Drywall and sheetrock		0%
Durock		0%
Fertilizers		0%
Flower, fruit and vegetable seeds		0%
Garden and lawn blowers		0%
Generators	$20 levy	0%
Hardie plank and board		0%
Heat lamps		0%
Ice and water shield		0%
Insecticides and pesticides †		0%
Lumber		0%
Nails, screws, bolts and tacks		0%
Pavi panel shingles		0%
Plywood		0%
Rodenticides and rat glue		0%
Shrimp bait and fishing bait		0%
Smart dimmer switches		0%
Solar inverters		0%
Solar lamps, lights and sensors		0%
Solar panels		0%
Steel windows		0%
Toilet seats, covers and fittings		0%
Toilets	$5 levy	0%
Tool bags		0%
Window fittings		0%
Windows, vinyl double glazed or vacuum sealed		0%

Books, school and office		Duty
Audio books		0%
Books for reading		0%
Coloring and drawing books		0%
Crayons		0%
Erasers, pencil cases and sharpeners		0%
Exercise books and notebooks		0%
Felt		0%
Graduation medals		0%
Learning resources, flash cards and teaching aids		0%

Leather portfolio cases	0%
Maps and globes	0%
Pencils and propelling pencils	0%
Pens, including ballpoint and fountain	0%
Photo books	0%
School rulers	0%
School satchel bags	0%
School supplies	0%
Staples	0%

Music	Duty
Drums	0%
Guitars	0%
Horns and trumpets	0%
Keyboards (musical)	0%
Musical instruments and parts	0%
Recorders and hand bells	0%

Similar items that do pay duty

Duty free	Pays duty
iPad	Cell phone, 10%
Apple TV box	Television, 35%
Refrigerator with no separate freezer door	Fridge-freezer with a separate freezer door, 35%
Stove, 30 inches and under	Stove wider than 30 inches, 5%
Solar or hybrid air conditioner	Wall or window air conditioner, 5%
Baby and toddler clothing, size 6 and under	Other clothing, 20%
Sunglasses	Smart glasses, 10%
Manual toothbrush	Electric toothbrush, 35%
Shampoo	Hair conditioner, 25%
Fresh fruit	Pineapples, 40%

Good to know

- **Customs has the final say.** Bahamas Customs classifies every item from the supplier's invoice. This list is a guide to help you estimate before you buy.
- **The $500 exemption doesn't cover shipped packages.** It's for goods residents bring back with them when they travel.
- **VAT-free groceries don't cover your own food orders.** The VAT exemption on unprepared food is for food imported and sold by food stores, so plan on 10% VAT when you order food for yourself.
- **Medicine:** many medicines pay 5% VAT and others pay 10%, depending on the product.
- **Permits:** some foods, plants, seeds and animal products need a permit from the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority, even when they're duty free.
- **Rates change.** New rates usually take effect on July 1 each year. The latest rates are always at mrshipit.com/bahamas-duty-rates.

See your real total before you buy

Choose your item in the shipping calculator at mrshipit.com/price-calculator, or call us on 603-5555.