

**Children's Playthings**

- Bicycles
- Playhouses
- Sandboxes
- Sleds, toboggans
- Swingsets
- Tire swings
- Wagons
- Other outside toys like trucks, sand molds
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Items**

- Cars or trucks
- Car parts
- Car ramps
- Farm items
- Plant nursery items
- Stored tires/snow tires
- Any item not mentioned that was stored
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What To Do If You Find Soil or Insect Pests or Snails**

Wash all soil from outdoor household articles and shoes. An effective way to dispose of insects or snails is to remove them by hand and deposit them in hot water, ammonia, household bleach, or kerosene. Scrape egg masses from their locations with a putty knife or similar flat-edged tool.

Pests and dust may cause skin rashes, difficulty in breathing, or other allergic reactions. If necessary, wear gloves, protective clothing, and a dust mask while inspecting and cleaning your outdoor items.

Once you have completed your inspection of the outdoor items you intend to move, protect them from being reinfested.

Remember, you are the key to preventing the spread of pests on outdoor household articles. You may elect to abandon articles if they are heavily infested and of little value to you. Do your part to prevent the spread of these pests and help keep the homefront pest free.

For more information, point your Web browser to <<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>>.



The Asian longhorned beetle—a major forest pest in the Far East—hitchhiked into the United States in the mid-1990s inside the low-grade wood used to make pallets and crates for cargo. A Chicago citizen discovered the beetle and reported it to APHIS, proving again how important the public can be in helping keep our country free of foreign insects.



Commercial enterprises and the military are responsible for cleaning all their equipment to ensure it is free of soil and pests before it is brought home from abroad. All tanks and trucks are thoroughly inspected before being returned to the United States.

Soil contaminated with organic materials (e.g., manure, meat scraps, or carcasses) can carry animal diseases into the United States. Straw and hay, which are often used for packing materials, can harbor parasites and ticks that can also carry animal diseases. Make sure all soil is removed from household items and packing materials.



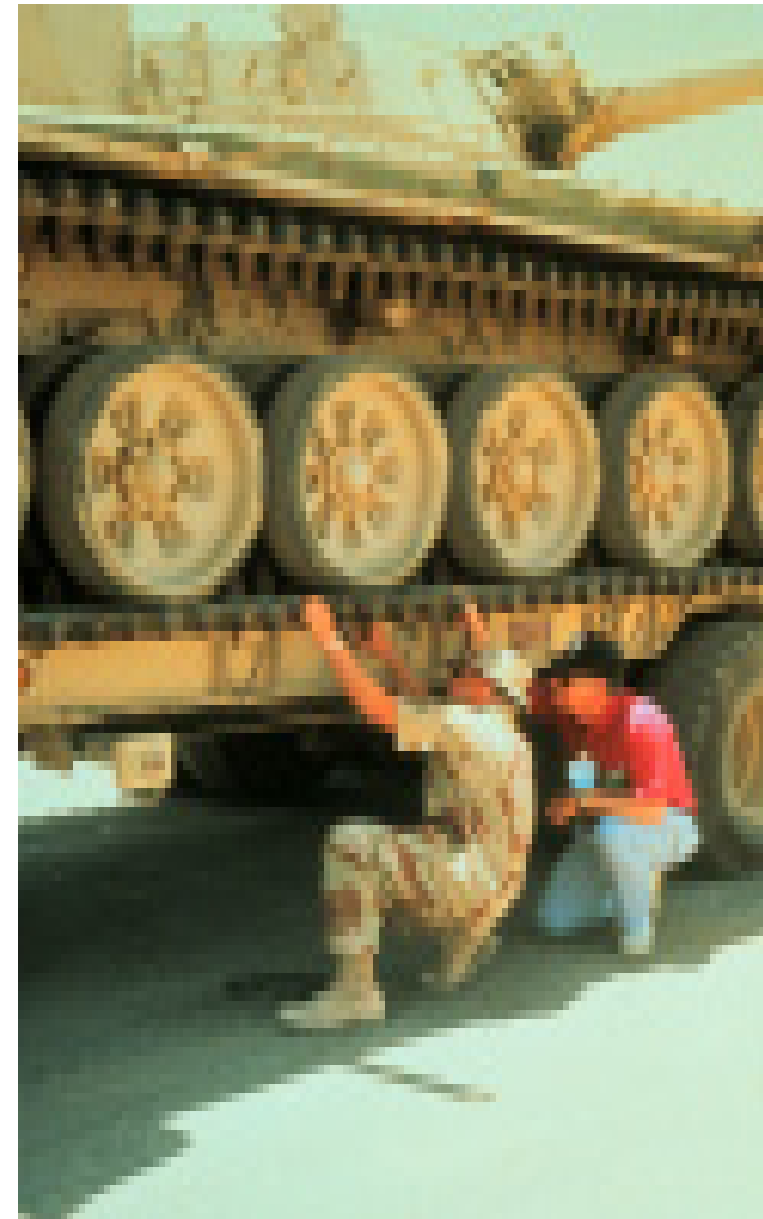
If you find gypsy moth or other egg masses, scrape them into a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, or kerosene.



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No.1666

**Keep the Homefront Pest Free**



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*Cover photo and photo credits:* Equipment returning to the United States from military action abroad must be carefully inspected to make sure it is free of exotic pests and diseases that could devastate U.S. agriculture. (APHIS file photo taken during Operation Desert Storm.) APHIS photographer R. Anson Eaglin took the shot of the Asian longhorned beetle. All the remaining images come from APHIS' photo library.



Gypsy moths defoliate trees and shrubs. Further introductions of this pest could cause widespread damage to plants on both private and commercial land in the United States. APHIS file photos show a gypsy moth caterpillar and an adult male (top right) and female with egg mass (lower right).



The giant African snail (top) and other snails can hitchhike into the United States on outdoor household goods. Be sure to clean all goods and equipment before packing and returning to the country.

## Hitchhiking Pests

Items brought into the United States may harbor foreign animal and plant pests that could seriously damage American crops, livestock, and forests. You are responsible for making sure your household goods don't bring foreign pests home. This leaflet explains how to inspect your household goods before moving to see if they harbor insects, snails, or soil.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is concerned about further introductions of many pests, including gypsy moth and several varieties of snails. These pests can cause immense damage to our natural resources because they have few natural enemies in the United States.

Because foreign soil in any amount could carry pests and animal diseases, objects contaminated with soil cannot come into the country. All military and commercial equipment (e.g., tanks and trucks) must be thoroughly washed before being returned to the United States after overseas use. Likewise, your personal property must also be soil free.

## Do-It-Yourself Inspection

Inspect any household article left outdoors, stored in open or exposed areas, or stored indoors but used outdoors.

The checklist included in this leaflet lists common outdoor household articles that could carry insects, snails, or soil. Carefully examine each article, clean it if necessary, and check it off the list.

Be sure to enter the date and place of inspection on the checklist and sign on the bottom. This will be your official certificate of self-inspection. You must include this list with the paperwork accompanying your move.

## Agriculture Self-Inspection Checklist

**Important: Make sure this checklist goes with your household goods when you move!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recreational or Camping Items

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backboards    | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders or boots  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests    | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles   |   |

### Household Items

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline poles          | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm/screen doors and windows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags            | <input type="checkbox"/> Television antennas            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empty plant containers     | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel tanks                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor doormats           | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerators              |   |

### Building Materials

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and toolboxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber             | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pipes              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____               |

### Yard and Garden Items

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses (doghouses, rabbit hutches, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird feeders                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Planters                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird houses                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug lights                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Spreaders                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools and swimming pool equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tools                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations                           |