



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine  
and Inspection Service



## Some Easter items could cost you and the environment

An increase in the importation of Easter items also means an increase in the risks of pests and diseases entering Australia.

Most imported items meet Australia's stringent import conditions, but some gift items such as decorated egg shells, novelties, baskets, toys and some international parcels could bring the world's most exotic pests and diseases into Australia—posing a threat to our unique environment, our agriculture and tourism industries, and lead to a significant loss of money for importers.

Easter gifts may contain real chicken and duck shells, feathers, branches, flowers, straw, seeds, leaves, raw cotton or wool. Gifts, novelty items and handicrafts made from or containing bamboo, wood or cane can carry exotic borers.

Chicken or duck egg shells not properly treated could carry diseases such as Avian influenza (bird flu) risking our poultry industries and native birds.

In 2008, significant losses were realised across Australia when Easter items decorated with egg shell were recalled and destroyed. **This was at a cost to the importer!**

AQIS manages risks through inspections, profiling, containment and treatments, but it is likely that some goods will escape our vigilance,

and that's where you can help us. It's simple and easy.

### How you can help

Stopping pest and disease risks overseas is more efficient and cheaper than dealing with them once they've reached Australia. You can help AQIS by checking what treatments are available to deal with quarantine risks and what kinds of items are not permitted to be imported to Australia.

Remind your overseas suppliers that imports must comply with the updated conditions listed on AQIS's import conditions database (ICON) [www.aqis.gov.au/icon](http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon)

ICON contains all AQIS requirements that you and your suppliers will need to ensure imports won't be of quarantine concern on arrival in Australia.

When receiving and storing imported goods, AQIS recommends you stay vigilant for risky animal and plant materials in your gifts, especially for signs of pest infestation and insect activity.

If you do find or suspect something, call 1800 020 504.

Remember: quarantine is everyone's responsibility!