

Q. How does CDFA define the *category* "house plants"?

House plants must meet ALL the requirements below:

- grown in your home
- not for resale
- pest free
- potted in sterile, packaged, commercial potting mix
- ornamental plant
(usually tropical and subtropical)

Q. What house plants should I **NOT** bring with me to California?

All citrus plants are **prohibited**; in addition, private owners of pine, oak, fruit and nut trees are **strongly discouraged** from moving these into California unless all provisions of the [applicable federal and state quarantines](#) can be satisfied. These plants present a high-risk of introducing serious pests or diseases that could harm many different California agricultural industries and the environment.

Q. What basic guidelines can I use to help me evaluate if my house plants are suitable for entry into California?

House plants must have been **grown in an indoor setting only**, such as in a home or enclosed greenhouse, and **planted in sterile, packaged, commercial potting mix**. They should not have been grown or maintained outdoors, even during the warmer times of the year, or planted in soil taken from outdoor or backyard sources.

Q. Can my house plants be rejected if they show signs of even common insect, snail or disease problems?

Yes, California's border inspection officers may reject and confiscate any such plant material. House plants must be free of surface pests and appear healthy with no visible signs of disease.

Q. What do I need to do so that the inspection procedure at the California border station goes smoothly?

- Commercial Movers: must be instructed to put the declaration "house plants" at the top of the shipment inventory. The plants should be stored near the van doors to facilitate ease of inspection at the California border station.
- Private Individuals: must declare their plants to the border inspector(s) and have them easily accessible for inspection. Keep in mind that **all** agricultural materials (including house plants, fresh fruits and vegetables) are subject to inspection at the border station.

Q. What state authority applies to the movement of house plants into California?

The [California Food and Agricultural Code](#) provides the authority for the rejection of plant material found infested or suspected of harboring pests when transiting from one state to another. Border station inspectors can reject and destroy any plant material believed to present a risk of pest or disease introduction into California.

Q. What local, government contact can provide me with additional information on the California and federal plant quarantine regulations that affect whether I am allowed to move my house plants into California?

The [Department of Agriculture in your current state](#) should maintain a summary of the regulations affecting the movement of plant material into California. They should also be able to advise you if treatment or inspection options are available for certifying plant material for entry into California when a state and/or federal quarantine apply.

Contact Pest Exclusion for Questions: (916) 654-0312