



Look out for contaminating pests and contaminants in sea containers and their cargoes

Contaminating pests and contaminants* can travel on or in sea containers. The goods in the container can also contain such pests, regardless of the type of the goods being carried. They can cause serious damage to agricultural industries, the environment and economy.

* Plant and animal material, weeds, seeds, snails, insects and soil. Soil can carry serious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease.

Before using a sea container, make sure it is clean and free of pests and contaminants.

Areas contaminating pests are commonly found:

undersides



rubber door seals



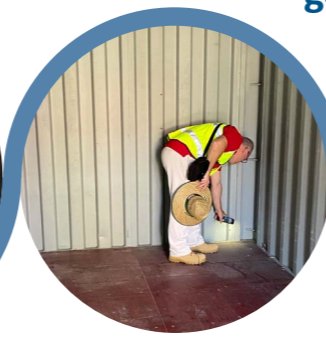
goods and packaging



cracks and crevices



internal surfaces



- bottom rails
- forklift pockets and twist lock fittings
- tops and cross members.



Inspections should only be conducted where it is safe to do so. See this link for guidance: [fao.org/3/ca7740en/CA7740EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/ca7740en/CA7740EN.pdf)



Shared responsibility

Everyone along the supply chain has a responsibility to keep containers and their cargoes clean. For guidance on best practices to keep containers and cargoes clean, in accordance with roles and responsibilities of parties in the supply chain, please refer: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7963en>

Detections

If pests or contaminants are detected:

- Before vessel loading: take the appropriate action to remove them and ensure container is clean.
- After vessel discharge: seek guidance from your National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)

Methods to remove contamination

Minor contamination can be removed using sweeping or vacuum cleaning, high pressure water wash or scraping. Under certain circumstances, treatments may be necessary to manage contamination.

Guidance on appropriate treatment options can be obtained from your NPPO or a local professional pest controller.

Disposal

Pests and contaminants must be disposed of safely to prevent their spread. The most common method is bagging: contaminants, as well as the bodies of pests or animals, are placed in bags, sealed, and then placed in a sealable containment bin for collection. Other disposal options may include incineration and deep burial.

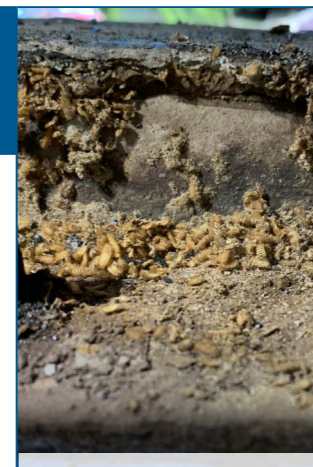
Prevention

When containers and cargoes are moved to storage areas, packing areas, ports of loading, or are transiting through another country, preventative measures should be taken to avoid contamination. This includes preventing contamination of containers and cargoes that have already been inspected and cleaned. For guidance on establishing and maintaining pest free areas, please see this link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca5844en>.

Examples of pests and contaminants and where they are commonly found

Internal pests (such as khapra beetle)

Look for insects, larvae and/or larval skins in goods, in the joins between floors and walls of sea containers, and where possible, in the joins between floor panels and under floors of sea containers.



khapra beetle skins in cross rail

Nesting pests (such as ants and bees)

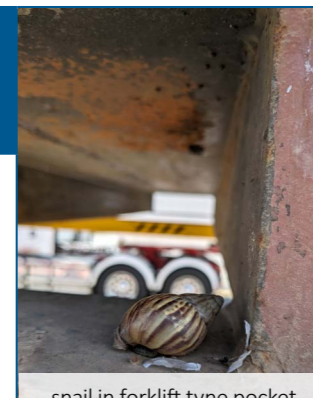
Look for groups or nests in joins, gaps and spaces at ground level both in and on sea containers and their cargoes.



African big headed ant

Sheltering pests (such as snails)

Look for snails in a variety of colours, sizes and forms attached to sea containers.



snail in forklift tyne pocket

Overwintering pests (such as stink bugs)

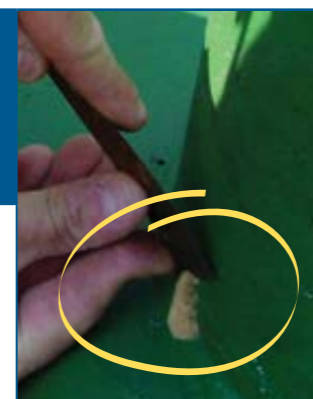
Look for pests sheltering in containers, and goods that have been stored outdoors.



stink bugs on container wall

Egg laying pests (such as spongy moth)

Look for egg masses and pests on external sea container surfaces.



egg mass on external surfaces

Contaminants such as soil, seeds, plant and animal material

Look for contaminants on the base (including twist locks, side rails and forklift pockets), inside, and where possible, on the underside of containers.



soil under container

For factsheets on other invasive pests, please visit: <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/product/qi>