

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) allows the transport of prescribed, FDA-approved cannabis products (e.g. Epidiolex) as well as the transport of CBD products manufactured pursuant to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 farm bill. Those products must be made from industrial hemp and cannot contain more than 0.3% THC. Though TSA agents do not actively search for cannabis or other drugs, they are required to report the discovery of such substances to law enforcement. Some airports have cannabis “amnesty boxes” where patients can dispose of any cannabis remaining in their possession before boarding their flights. Some airlines, including Delta and American, have created specific policies prohibiting the transport of cannabis on their aircraft. Other transportation companies have also created restrictive policies regarding cannabis. Amtrak bans “the use or transportation of marijuana in any form for any purpose... even in states or countries where recreational use is legal or permitted medically.” Greyhound’s policy prohibits “alcohol, drugs, or weapons anywhere on the bus (including in your checked baggage).” Patients should check the policies of any planned transportation providers before traveling.

Popular ridesharing companies have adopted different, and at-times self-contradictory, approaches to cannabis. Uber states that using its app “to commit any crime - such as transporting drugs... or to violate any other law is strictly prohibited”. Lyft, on the other hand, has a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy for its drivers but only prohibits passengers from transporting open containers of alcohol. It is important to recall, however, that rideshare drivers are using their personal vehicles and that some may object to the smell of cannabis in their car. To be respectful of the driver and his or her vehicle, patients are encouraged to explore scent-reducing or -eliminating storage and transportation solutions.

Patients should never drive under the influence of any substance that may negatively impact their driving ability, including cannabis. Patients who intend to drive while in possession of cannabis should make sure their vehicle registration, driver’s license, and license plates are unexpired and that all lights are operational. When driving, patients should keep cannabis locked in the trunk. In some states where cannabis is legal, driving with cannabis that is stored anywhere other than in the trunk - including in a locked glove compartment - is illegal.

Storing Cannabis

Light, heat, and oxygen can degrade cannabinoids and terpenes. Excessive moisture in a product can promote spoilage and fungal growth. Generally, cannabis floral material and derived products should be kept in a container that minimizes exposure to these factors and stored in a climate-controlled setting to avoid elevated temperatures and humidity. To protect the contents and minimize the release of odor, containers should be rigid, airtight, and made out of a non-absorptive material like glass or stainless steel.

About Americans for Safe Access

This mission of Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is to ensure safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use and research. ASA works with our grassroots base of over 150,000 members and supporters and our professional advisory groups to effect change through public education, support services, professional development, research, litigation, and direct advocacy at the local, state, and federal level.



Know Before You Go

With Americans for Safe Access’ help, Congress has passed a temporary measure to stop the U.S. Department of Justice from spending federal funds to interfere with state medical cannabis laws. However, because cannabis is still federally classified as a Schedule I controlled substance, medical cannabis patients are always violating federal law when in possession of cannabis, even in states where medical cannabis laws have been passed. Because of this, traveling across state lines with *any* amount of cannabis is a federal crime, even if the patient is transporting cannabis between two states that have organized medical cannabis programs. It should also be noted that several of the states in which adult-use cannabis is legal have explicitly outlawed the importation and/or exportation of cannabis across their borders. However, many medical cannabis states offer visiting patients some form of reciprocity, meaning that they will recognize medical cannabis cards granted by other states.

Before traveling, it is important for patients to review the most up-to-date information for the state(s) they will be visiting, as laws and regulations are often subject to change.

Please be sure to check out ASA’s full Travel Guide at www.safeaccessnow.org/travel
For more information like this, sign up for our updates at www.safeaccessnow.org/email-updates