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HOME > CULTURE & LIFESTYLE > CULTURE INC. > TRAVEL > DESIGNER TRAVEL KITS

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## Security Clearance Chic

by Rachel Felder | Jul 11 2007

Finally, there are travel cases that meet airline requirements with more substance and style than disposable baggies.



Since last September, the low point of airline travel often happens way before you get on the plane.

It's not the shoe removal or the long lines for the X-ray scanner. It's being at the security checkpoint, fumbling with flimsy plastic bags packed with leaking or oversize containers, and hoping your toiletries pass muster with Transportation Security Administration regulations. Even if you're tucking your Ziploc into a Prada tote on the far side of the X-ray machine, it's hard to feel chic carrying a plastic baggie that would otherwise hold a sandwich or a handful of kids' crayons.

And, though the T.S.A.'s 3-1-1 guidelines for carry-on liquids (three-ounce-or-less bottles, in one quart-size bag, one bag per passenger) were meant to be easy to remember, they often end up being just baffling.

What better time for designers, luggage makers, and beauty companies to step in with cases and travel kits that conform to all the rules—and look stylish while doing it?

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Trade in that plastic baggie for one of these chic—and regulation-friendly—travel kits.

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"I had my plastic bag overstuffed. It popped open and things spilled out," says Linda Padgett-Stinson, who conceived of the roomy Clear Bag System, which includes five smart-looking, refillable, leakproof containers and plenty of space to add your own toothpaste and lip balm. "I wasn't 100 percent comfortable in knowing what I could and couldn't take."

Earlier this year, luggage legend Tumi introduced a sleek 3-1-1-compliant case stocked with four coordinated two-ounce bottles. It is only available as a free gift with the purchase of any of the company's carry-on bags, which range in price from \$195 to \$995. "We couldn't bring ourselves to charge for something which was so nonluxurious in traditional terms," Tumi spokesman Andrew Dubin explains. "We decided we would create something that would meet T.S.A. requirements to give away to customers as a proactive way of saying thank you—and give them a solution at the same time."

Artist Toland Grinnell offers a clear bag he's dubbed the Spy as part of Mr. B, his newly launched line of travel and diaper bags.

Essentially an extra-sturdy zip-top case that has been tweaked to be stylish, with details like colored trim and a funky angled edge, the bag is outselling his other designs nearly four to one. "It's not fashion, but it's fashionable," Grinnell says of his rugged case, which comes without bottles and is offered in two larger sizes as well as a T.S.A.-friendly version. "The idea of making something that was really high quality with a distinctive design seemed like a good idea."

Beauty companies are also recognizing that there's a market for these products. Malin + Goetz's travel sampler has been available for several years; coincidentally 3-1-1 compliant, it has become the brand's bestseller. Other companies, like Anthony Logistics for Men and Space NK (the British beauty retailer which just opened its American flagship in New York), have created chic kits expressly to meet the requirements.

What's the best part of traveling with these cases? For once, you may look forward to being pulled aside at security. "People will stop you," says Clear Bag System's Padgett-Stinson of her airport experiences these days. "They're standing there with their Ziploc and their stuff everywhere and they'll say, 'That is so nice—where did you get that?'"



by Sophia Banay

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