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Take It With You: Obey 3-1-1 rule with a bit of style

Published 12:00 am PDT Sunday, September 16, 2007

Story appeared in TRAVEL section, Page M

Photo Caption: The Clear Bag System meets the TSA's rules for carry-on items.

You're packing for a trip, and you want to take enough of your own shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer, hand lotion and sunscreen to last the duration. Who knows, after all, whether the stuff you'll find in the hotel room will frizz your hair, make it go limp or send you running for the nearest salon?

The problem for most women is that our favorite creams and elixirs come packaged in containers too

large to make it through airport security or be practical for travel. Federal law dictates we all abide by the 3-1-1 rule that restricts liquids, gels and aerosols to containers of 3 ounces or less, all of which must be enclosed in a clear, quart-size, zip-top bag.

To the rescue comes the 3-1-1 Clear Bag System, a stylish, TSA-compliant alternative to the standard plastic baggie. The product includes five reusable pump-top vials that travelers can fill with their own toiletries. The whole batch fits into a clear, 6-by-8-inch vinyl bag with a zip top and carry handle. There's enough room to tuck toothbrush and toothpaste in the bag, too.



I tested the system by loading up the vials with a selection of my personal hair and skin products. (Directions call for them to be filled completely to the top, eliminating all air). The system worked like a charm -- and made me feel a lot more organized than I would have felt stuffing a baggie with miscellaneous leftover hotel giveaways.

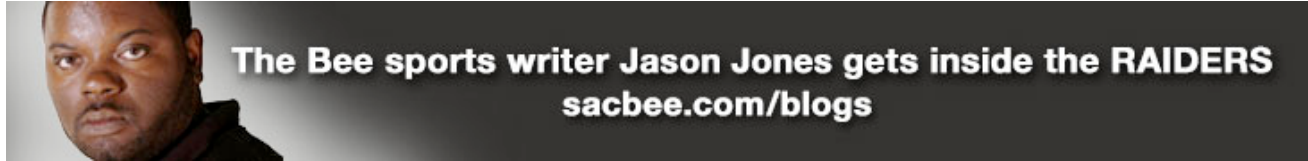
The Clear Bag System comes in several configurations of small, medium and large pump-top containers from \$24.95 to \$44.95. Mine came with three small and two large containers, each holding 3 ounces or less. Extra pump containers and matching jars are available from www.clearbagsystem.com or by calling (866) 969-1740.

-- Janet Fullwood

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