



Towers and Tarmacs



Is This Your Bag, Baby?

Posted by Annette R. Santiago at 9/19/2007 2:56 PM

I'm a bag lady. You'll know me when you see me at the airports I frequent – JFK, DTW, DCA. I'm that woman pulling beaten-up Ziploc bags out of her carry-on or...purse (gasp!) Somewhere on the security line another woman watches the scene unfold, saying "Oh no, she didn't."

So I was intrigued when I got a press release on TSA-compliant bags for "fashionistas." I am not a fashionista by any stretch of the imagination but I want the embarrassment of these disintegrating, tattered plastic baggies to end. And I'm sure those bags want to be put out of their misery.

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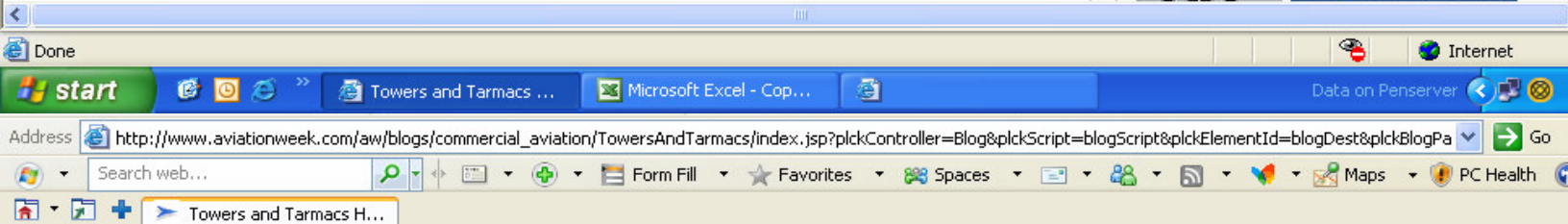
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Photo Courtesy Of 311 Travel Bag, Inc.

311 Travel Bag's Clear Bag System toiletry cases, priced from \$25-\$45, look quite sturdy. The patent-leather piping is what distinguishes the more "fashionable" bag from the original bag. Adding value to the product are TSA-compliant, color-coordinated pumps and jars that you fill with your must-have toiletries.

Yep, that's right. You fill them.

I'm torn. On the one hand, bags like the Clear Bag System seem like the perfect solution for frequent flyers looking for more ways to travel without the hassle. They've got TSA's stamp of approval and they're stylish, to boot. But at the same time, the hassle of having to put all of my creams and shampoos and stuff into those little jars – which probably drives up the price of the bags – is, well, a turn-off.

What say you, frequent flyers? Which would you give more weight to, style or convenience? Is it worth it in the long run to invest in something like this and take on the inconvenience of packing jars if it means less hassle at the checkpoint? And is it even necessary to make such an investment, considering more and more airports are providing clear plastic bags to passengers?

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