

Victoria's Machete Ban

Agriculture industry exemption

New laws on machetes in Victoria

From 1 September 2025, it will be illegal to own, carry, use, buy or sell a machete in Victoria unless you are covered by an exemption.

Machetes will be classified as a prohibited weapon under Victoria's Control of Weapons laws.

Agricultural exemption: what you need to know

If you work in agriculture and need to use a machete as part of your job, you may be exempt from the ban. This means you can legally use, carry, buy or transport a machete for genuine agricultural purposes.

You do not need to apply for this exemption.

What you can do under this exemption

You may carry and use a machete if you are:

- a farmer or farm worker using a machete for agricultural tasks such as crop management, harvesting, or sapling maintenance
- a horticultural worker using a machete as a professional tool
- a student or apprentice enrolled in an agricultural course (e.g. TAFE or university) where machete use is part of your training
- transporting a machete to and from your agricultural work site.

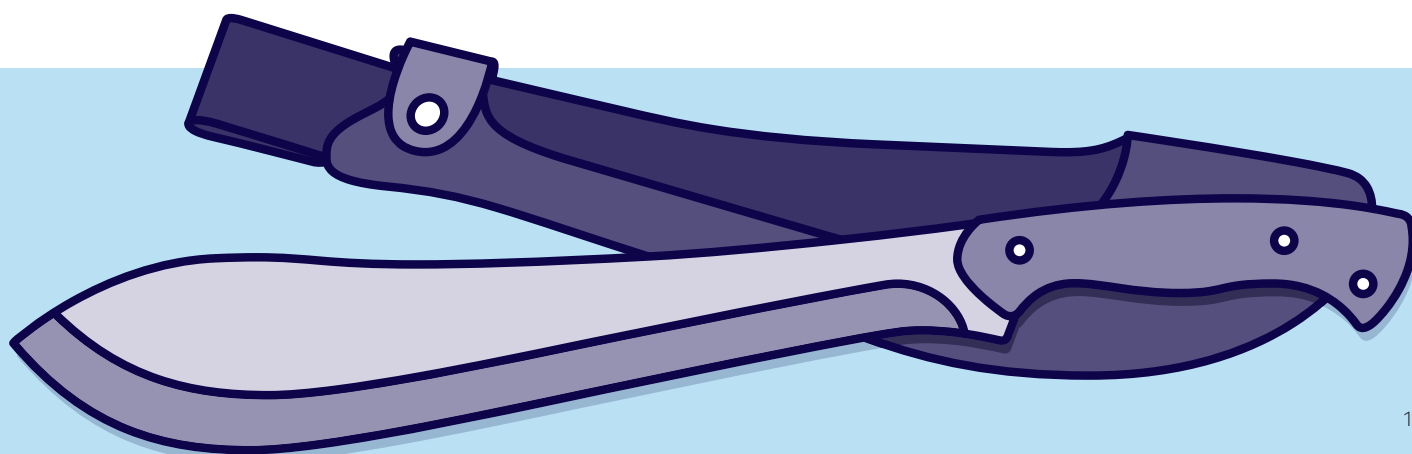
Important exemption conditions

- Machetes must be stored securely to prevent unauthorised access.
- If you're in a public place for work – including streets, footpaths, parks and gardens, railway stations, schools, markets, jetties and sports grounds – keep the machete concealed and secure when you're not using it.
- Make sure the machete is not accessible to anyone without an exemption.

What you cannot do

Even if you are covered by an exemption, you cannot:

- carry or use a machete in public places, unless you are doing agricultural work there
- use a machete for non-work activities such as camping, gardening, or other recreational activities
- lend it to anyone unless they also work in your business and are covered by the exemption
- keep a machete in your vehicle, unless you are travelling directly to or from a work site
- leave a machete unsecured where others can access it.



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What evidence you'll need

You must be able to show that you're legally allowed to carry, use or buy a machete for agricultural work. Suitable proof may include:

- an ABN registered to an agriculture or food production business
- a letter, employment contract, or payslip from your agriculture employer which matches your formal photo identification (e.g. passport or driver's licence).

For partnerships or companies, suitable proof may include:

- a certificate of registration for the partnership
- a certificate of incorporation for the company.

Penalties

From 1 September 2025, machetes are banned in Victoria. Possession without exemption can lead to:

- up to 2 years in prison, or
- a fine over \$47,000.

What is a machete?

A machete is a large, broad-bladed cutting knife.

The ban only applies to machetes. It does not include kitchen knives or other types of knives.

Machetes can vary in shape and size. Examples are shown in the images below.



For more information about Victoria's Machete Ban visit: www.vic.gov.au/machete-ban