

Victoria's Machete Ban

What retailers need to know about the new machete laws

Machetes are banned in Victoria from 1 September 2025

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 or official approval.

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

This means you cannot sell a machete unless:

- you have an official approval from the Chief Commissioner of Police, **and**
- your customer is covered by an exemption, or official approval.

An interim ban on the sale of machetes across Victoria under Australian Consumer Law commenced on 28 May 2025. This will be replaced by the permanent ban on the possession, use and sale of machetes under Victoria's Control of Weapons laws.

To find out more about the interim ban visit www.consumer.vic.gov.au/consumers-and-businesses/products-and-services/product-safety/sale-of-machetes-banned-in-victoria

How to apply for approval if you wish to sell a machete

From 1 September 2025, you must apply to the Chief Commissioner of Police for approval if you want to sell a machete.

In your application you must outline the reasons for the sale. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. A fee is payable for an approval and if granted, is valid for 3 years.

To apply or find out more visit www.police.vic.gov.au/chief-commissioner-approval

Your legal obligations as a retailer

From 1 September 2025, retailers must meet strict legal requirements to sell machetes in Victoria.

If you want to sell a machete, you must:

1. Obtain approval.

Before selling machetes you must apply for written approval from the Chief Commissioner of Police at: www.police.vic.gov.au/chief-commissioner-approval

2. Check customer eligibility.

Before making a sale, confirm the customer is covered by:

- a valid exemption, or
- written approval from the Chief Commissioner of Police to own a machete.

3. Sell only to eligible customers.

You may only sell machetes to individuals or businesses who meet the legal exemption criteria or have the required approval. Note: It is illegal to sell a machete to a child.

4. Verify customer identification and follow record-keeping laws.

Comply with identification and record-keeping requirements under sections 5A and 5B of the Control of Weapons Act, including:

- sight 1 form of formal photo identification (e.g. passport or driver's licence), or
- sight 2 other forms of identification, such as birth certificate, certificate of Australian citizenship, marriage certificate, healthcare card, Commonwealth concession card or tertiary student identification.

5. Maintain accurate records.

For every machete sale, you must keep records for at least 3 years, including:

- details of the machete sold (including description, identifying marks or serial numbers)
- customer's identification and contact information
- evidence of the customer's exemption or Chief Commissioner of Police approval to own a machete.

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Who is exempt?

A full list of exemptions for keeping or using a machete is published at www.vic.gov.au/machete-ban

Examples include:

1. People who operate or work in an agricultural business – but only when using the machete as part of that work.
2. Where a machete holds genuine cultural, historical or traditional significance, and is only used for recognised activities (e.g. cultural dance).

All other use of machetes – including recreational or general household use – is banned.

Safe storage of machetes

If you are approved to sell machetes, you must store them securely, to prevent theft or unauthorised access.

You must also ensure only people covered by a valid exemption or approval can access them.

Practical examples

Example 1: Legal sale

A customer wants to buy a machete for agricultural work. They provide one of the following types of acceptable evidence of agricultural employment:

- a letter from their employer with an ABN, or
- the name of an agricultural business, or
- a matching employment contract or recent payslip.

This is reasonable evidence that they meet the agricultural exemption.

You can sell them a machete, providing you keep a copy of their documentation for your records.

Example 2: Illegal sale

A customer asks to buy a machete. They:

- cannot show they're involved in a recognised cultural activity, or
- provide proof they work in agriculture, and
- have no written approval from the Chief Commissioner.

You must not sell them a machete.

Penalties for breaching the ban

From 1 September 2025, a zero-tolerance enforcement approach will apply to anyone breaching the machete ban.

Selling a machete without proper authorisation or failing to verify a customer's exemption or approval may lead to penalties of:

- 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.



More Information

Victorian Government www.vic.gov.au/machete-ban
Consumer Affairs Victoria www.consumer.vic.gov.au/consumers-and-businesses/products-and-services/product-safety/sale-of-machetes-banned-in-victoria