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Gun Safety and Laws

Gun Safety

The first things that all gun owners should learn is the Four Rules of Firearm Safety.

If you are not completely sure of what they are, or how to obey them, make sure to visit the link and read our article.

This is the beginning, but not the entirety of what you need to know to remain safe with firearms.

We will use this as the jumping off point so you have the basics out of the way.

Gun Laws

After you have learned and understand the safety rules, it is time to move on to learning your states gun laws.

Each state is different, so to make sure you have the correct and latest information I would bookmark Concealed Carry Reciprocity Map & Gun Laws By State. This page is frequently updated and gives sources to the laws listed.
Training and Permit

Training

Now that you have the basics out of the way, it is time for you to move on to the more advanced skills. In some states you have constitutional carry, so no permit is required. However, we still strongly recommend taking training courses.

The link below is for you to find a local instructor and/or training course.

Find Training

It is important to make sure that the course you take qualifies for your state's carry license.

Another great place to find training is your local gun range. They should either offer classes, or be able to steer you in the right direction. Either way, be sure to get some quality training.
**Permit**

Now we come to the permit. This will be difficult to walk you through as it varies by state. In some states you will not need a permit, while in others it can be extremely difficult to acquire.

A simple Google search can help you with finding out your state's procedures for acquiring your permit. Just search your state along with "weapons permit".

*For example: "Texas Weapons Permit"*

This should lead you in the right direction. If all else fails, contact your local sheriff's office.

Now, follow your state's procedures and wait for them to complete the process. This can get frustrating, as it sometimes can take a lot of time. However, once you get your permit, it is worth the wait.
Firearm and Ammo

Firearm Purchase

Now for the fun part...choosing and purchasing a firearm. There are many options of what and where to buy. We will give you a few of our favorites, but feel free to choose what works for you.

What to Purchase

This totally depends on what caliber and size gun you want to carry. It also depends on your budget. You can't go wrong with many of the major name brands such as Glock, Sig Sauer, or Smith & Wesson.

Ask around for recommendations, and feel free to visit your local ranges as they often have gun rentals that allow you to test out the gun.

We do have an article 21 Best Concealed Carry Guns in 9mm where we cover our recommendations. So, if you are looking for something in 9mm, check it out.
Where to Purchase

For online purchases, we recommend Brownells. Their combination of low prices, quality of service, and large inventory make it easy to shop for what you want. They also offer coupons almost daily on their site as well.

Purchasing online is not as difficult as you may think. We have an article How to Buy a Gun Online where we walk you through the process.

You will need to find an FFL to accept your order, as firearms can't be shipped directly to your house. The FFL fee should be around $25-$35.

Feel free to check out your local gun shops, large retailers, or other online businesses as well.
Ammo Purchase

Choosing your ammo will be a little more simple than the firearm. While you can go with cheap range ammo for some practice, you will want to get many boxes of good carry ammo.

No matter the caliber of firearm you choose, our article Best 9mm Self Defense Ammo really covers all the calibers of ammo. Choose one of the brands listed in the article and stock up.

Be sure to practice with your carry ammo sometimes as well. This is very important when you first buy some in order to make sure it runs through your gun well.

Important Note

The laws that pertain to purchasing firearms and ammunition online vary by state, so make sure you follow your state's laws.
Range and Cleaning

Range Accessories

Head over to Amazon or your local retailer to purchase the basics. You will need hearing protection, eye protection, first aid kit, tourniquet, targets, and a range bag.

Below is a link to our recommended gear page if you are looking for what to buy, or some recommendations.

Our Recommended Gear Page

Cleaning Supplies

Don't forget to get some cleaning and maintenance supplies as well. Our article How To Clean A Handgun has all you need for that. Letting your brand new firearm go neglected would be a shame.
Safe Storage

Gun storage is very important to prevent theft. It is even more important for safety, especially if you have little ones that live in your home...or will be visiting.

You can go with either a large gun safe, or a small bedside safe. If you are looking for something just for your handgun, be sure to check out our article on Bedside Gun Safes.

A large safe is important as well if you have many firearms. However, a small easy access safe is nice to have. If an intruder enters, or you need your gun fast...you will be glad you have it.
Insurance and More Training

Insurance

If you wouldn't drive your car without insurance, then don't own a firearm without coverage as well.

In our article on [Concealed Carry Insurance](#) we compared 4 of the top companies and reviewed what we found.

In the end, we chose **USCCA** for our own coverage due to their 5 star coverage, great membership perks, and prices that start as low as **$22** per month.

[Click To Visit USCCA](#)
More Training

More training is a smart choice at this point. In fact, just like practice, your training should be an ongoing process.

Live Training

If you chose USCCA, then you have access to training through them as well...both digital/online training, as well as links to local in person training.

We recommend taking classes locally that are geared toward concealed carry. There are many different classes that teach different aspects of carrying. Look into them and take a different one every few months.

Digital Training

If you are looking for some home study, digital training...check out the 6 volume series The Armed American Training Series. At the writing of this guide it was 50% off, and I often see it at that price!
Concealed Carry Setup

Be sure to check out our recommended gear page. We cover all kinds of concealed carry gear. These are items we trust and use.

Belt

You NEED a quality gun belt. Be sure not to skimp here! You will thank us later. There is nothing like a sagging belt to discourage you from making concealed carry an every day habit.

Don't be like me when I first started carrying. I thought a heavy duty Walmart belt could do the job. I didn't even realize how bad it was until I wore a REAL gun belt.

Check out our article Best Gun Belts For Concealed Carry and pick one. I use the Ares Gear Aegis Enhanced belt daily. It's my all time favorite belt. Hanks are my favorite leather gun belts.
Holster

Everyone who has concealed carried for some time has a drawer of holsters they don't use. Myself included. Learn from our mistakes.

Our article on Best Concealed Carry Holsters covers what to look for in a holster, and how to narrow down the choice for your gun. It also gives a list of our favorites.

After owning 5 Tulster holsters, and carrying them for over a year, I reached out to the company to see if our readers could get a discount.

Our readers now SAVE 15% at tulster.com!
Just Use Code: CCS
Final Tips

Tip #1

Carrying a gun in public may seem awkward at first, but as time goes on...that will pass. Some have reported feelings of people staring at them, constantly wanting to adjust their gun, or even fear.

Just get in the habit of having your gun on you, and it will become second nature.

Tip #2

Your normal everyday outfit should work just fine for concealed carry. However, you may want to increase the waist size of your pants by one size if you typically wear tight pants, or want to carry a full size gun. It's up to you.

Tip #3

Find a friend that conceal carries, or one that is willing to start at the same time as you. Then you can help each other out...as well as have a range partner!
CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to The

CONCEALED CARRY SOCIETY

If you have followed all the steps above, you are no longer a beginner. You are a member of the Concealed Carry Society!

You are now ready to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Now...we challenge you! Pass your knowledge on and introduce others to concealed carry. Bring them with you to the range, pass on the things you have learned, and let them know to visit concealedcarrysociety.com!

Carry Safe, Carry Smart, Carry Daily