

Complete Gun Safety Guide



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Guns and Responsibility

Guns have always been a sure way to protect yourself and your home, although things have changed quite a bit over the years. Even though those who live in the United States have a right to bear arms, there are also certain responsibilities that come along as well.



Those who own guns have the responsibility of protecting their home and their family - and also their guns. Anyone who owns a gun may have self protection in mind - although he also has a priority to protect his guns as well.

Anyone who owns guns should never allow them to fall into someone else's hands. To ensure this never happens, the gun owner should always keep his gun collection locked away in a safe or gun cabinet. You can get many different sizes of gun safe that will hold a variable amount of guns. Anything can happen if the wrong individual gets a hold of your guns, which is why you should always make sure that they are well protected - and locked up.

Gun owners can protect their own property as well, by storing their guns in fireproof gun safes. Fireproof gun safes can protect guns and keep them safe, even if everything else burns to the ground.

Fireproof guns safes will also keep guns safe from children as well. All children are curious, and like to get their hands on anything they can. If you leave your guns lying around and not locked up, a child will eventually find it. You should also ensure that your guns are never loaded either, as a child can really hurt himself if he finds a loaded gun. Although you may keep your guns locked up in a fireproof safe - you should also make sure that the ammo is out of the guns and locked away in the safe as well.

Keep in mind that children may look for your gun on purpose, knowing that the guns are something that you use. Therefore, simply putting your guns on a higher shelf doesn't really protect your children. If a child wants something bad enough, he or she will do anything possible to get it. The only real way to keep your guns safe from children is to ensure that they are always locked up in fireproof safe or traditional gun safe.

Children may show interest in guns at an early age, which can be a good thing but can also be a bad thing. At a young age, a child won't know anything about gun safety. Therefore, if a child happens to come across your guns, bad things can happen. If you have guns in your home, you should always make a point to teach your children gun safety. This way, they will know that they aren't allowed to handle your guns, and they'll be aware of what can happen if they do.

By keeping your guns in a fireproof safe or traditional gun safe, you'll keep your guns safe from children or others. Fireproof safes will also keep your guns safe from fire as well, which makes them an ideal investment. Although you can also get a traditional gun safe if

you prefer, fireproof safes are by far the best way to go. You can keep your guns safe from children, others, and even fire - which makes them more than worth the money.

Protect yourself

Guns are everywhere in this country. The second amendment is one of the most widely supported and defended rights in the United States. Since guns are such widely owned items in the country, be it for home protection or for



hunting game, it is important that every gun owner be well versed in safety protocol for handling guns. If you are even considering purchasing a gun, then here are some essential guidelines that, if applied, will keep you safe.

The first thing you need to know, and this is easily the most important thing, is that **the most dangerous gun in the world is the gun that is not loaded.** What this means is that you should never, ever, under any circumstances at all, assume that a gun is not loaded until you have inspected for yourself and removed any and all ammunition that may be in the weapon. Year after year countless people are harmed because of the assumption that a gun is not

loaded when it either is or still has a round in the chamber. There is no such thing as a safe gun.

The next thing you need to know is the importance of **properly maintaining your weapon**. Specifically, you need to clean your gun after each use. Not only does this keep your gun clean and pristine looking, but it helps to ensure that you do not have a backfire, which is very dangerous. A backfire can be anything from a round not leaving the chamber or the round exploding. Do not take a chance on that happening. Always maintain your weapon.

The next thing you need to do is be sure to **keep your finger off of the trigger at all times until you are ready to fire it**. This is an obvious safety tip, but it is one that so many people forget about year after year. It is also important to keep the safety on your weapon at all times. As with the previous tip, this is a simple tip that is easily forgotten, so do not make the mistake of underestimating how important it is.

You also need to be sure to **store your gun and your ammunition in separate areas**. And you should definitely never store your gun while it is loaded. Always, and that means always, remove the ammunition from your gun before you put it away, and always make sure it is removed when you take it out. This goes along with assuming a gun is always loaded.

Having a firearm in the home can be a significant risk factor for injury and death in children. The decision to keep a firearm in the home is very serious and one that should not be made lightly. If you choose to keep a gun you must become fully aware about the risks of firearms to your family and others who visit your home.

Although firearm related injuries peak in adolescence, they can affect younger children and infants as well. Younger children are most likely to be injured, either shooting themselves or a playmate, after playing with a gun that they found in the home, not realizing that the gun is real or that it's loaded.

It is estimated that there are guns in half the homes in the United States. Although most of these guns are purchased for safety reasons, a firearm at home is much more likely to injure or kill a family member or friend than an intruder.

Let's look at some statistics:

Firearm Deaths

- ✓ Every seven and a half hours a child or teen is killed by a gun by either accident or suicide.
- ✓ From 1995 to 2000 an average of 4 to 5 children died every day in non homicide firearm incidents.
- ✓ From 1995 to 2000, more than 1,790 children were killed in firearm accidents.
- ✓ In each of the last 10 years an average of 1,323 kids committed suicide with a firearm; 155 were under 15 years of age.

Firearm Injuries

- ✓ In 2001, there were 14,571 kids injured by a firearm.
- ✓ In 2001, 13,572 kids were injured by BB/pellet guns.

Firearm Ownership

- ✓ 40% of American households have guns

- ✓ 34% of children in American homes live in homes with at least one firearm

Storage Practices

Among homes with children and firearms

- ✓ 28% do not always keep guns locked in a secure place
- ✓ 25% only “occasionally” lock and store the bullets separate from the gun
- ✓ 48% do not regularly make sure that guns are equipped with child safety and trigger locks
- ✓ In 30% of hand gun owning homes, the gun was stored unlocked and loaded at the time of the survey

Accessibility

- ✓ In 72% of unintentional deaths and injuries, suicide and suicide attempts, the firearm was stored in the residence of the victim
- ✓ 47% of high school kids and 22% of middle school kids said they could get a gun
- ✓ 6% of high school kids said they had carried a gun to school within the last 30 days
- ✓ 72% of parents think their kids would not handle a gun without their permission

Gun Storage

The risks to our children from unsafe gun storage practices are significant.



Without any exaggeration, the way a gun is stored can make the difference between life and death. Tragedies occur on a daily basis involving unlocked firearms that are easily accessible to young people, either at their own homes or the homes of their relatives or neighbors. These tragedies could very well of had been avoided if the adult in the home had taken the time to unload the gun and store it in a locked container along with the guns ammunitions.

Children have a natural curiosity, especially when it comes to guns. Parents should not lull themselves into a false sense of security on this matter, even if they have spoken to their children about guns. All parents must take common sense steps to protect children, both by talking to them about guns and by unloading and locking all guns so that a child or teen cannot access them without direct adult supervision.

To ensure the safety of children, all gun owners should:

- unload and lock up their guns
- lock and store ammunition separately
- hide keys where children are unable to find them

There are a variety of ways and devices for securing your firearm. Though safes seem to provide the most security, many people prefer locks, which are often available for free or for a small cost.

Distinguishing Between Fantasy and Reality

Many parents declare their homes a “no gun” zone, free from all real or toy guns.

That's a legitimate choice. However, children go to great lengths to create guns for play.

Everything from sticks to plastic building blocks arranged into Space Ships is a fair game for a child's imagination.

A healthy imagination is a healthy trait in a child. However the ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy also blinds the child that cannot distinguish between Hollywood make-believe action and his or her behavior in the play room. This blindness is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Never assume the child knows the difference. As a parent you cannot begin too early in your child's development in learning the difference between reality play and the fantasy world of entertainment.

Make sure your child knows the difference between a toy gun and a real gun. Tell your child that guns used to create movies or on the video game screen are toys. Make them absolutely aware that BB guns, air guns, and firearms – rifles, pistols and shot guns – are not toys.

If you allow your child to play with toy guns, use the toy gun to demonstrate proper behavior with real guns.

Periodically, when you watch T.V. and see an action movie, quiz them on the gun handling practices of the characters! This will help the principles of safe firearm handling become second nature to your child.

Practice What You Preach

Ultimately, you set the guidelines for your child's behavior. Once you are comfortable with storage and handling procedures at home, insist that they be honored at all times, whether you're at home or away.

These precautions still apply even if you have no children. If your children have grown to adulthood and left home there's always the possibility that a neighbor's child, or a grandchild may come visit. Practice safety at all times. Remember that gun safety in the home is a one-way street. Follow the rules you set for your children. Make sure that what you say and what you do is the same.

A Note for Gun Owning Parents

1. Gun safety begins with you.

If you own guns, use common sense. Keep your guns and ammunition inaccessible to your child as well as curious playmates.



2. Don't leave firearms lying around

A toddler can stumble across them. And never assume that simply because a very young child lacks finger strength that they can't pull the trigger. A child's thumb has twice the strength of the other

fingers. When a child's thumb pulls the trigger, invariably the barrel of the gun is pointing at the child's face. Get the picture?

3. Think about gun storage from your child's point of view

Are the places you think are safe from a toddler's reach, really out of reach? Ever seen a child use a drawer to climb? They use the drawer as a stepping stool to climb the dresser!

Ammunition, shotshells, and cartridges are not something that should be played with by a child. Keep your storage as inaccessible as your firearm.

A Note for Parents Who Do Not Own Guns

Are you afraid of guns or opposed to guns for personal or political reasons? You're not alone. Whether or not you've vowed to keep guns away from your kids and out of the house, this guide to gun safety was written for you as well.

As your child's primary care giver, you owe it to them to prepare for the chance that they will encounter a gun. If you teach them the basics of gun safety, you will be in a better position to help your child if he or she should happen to find a gun and no adult is on scene.

To control such a situation safely, you must have knowledge. That's why we urge you and every parent to read and practice the principles of firearm safety.

Safe Gun Storage

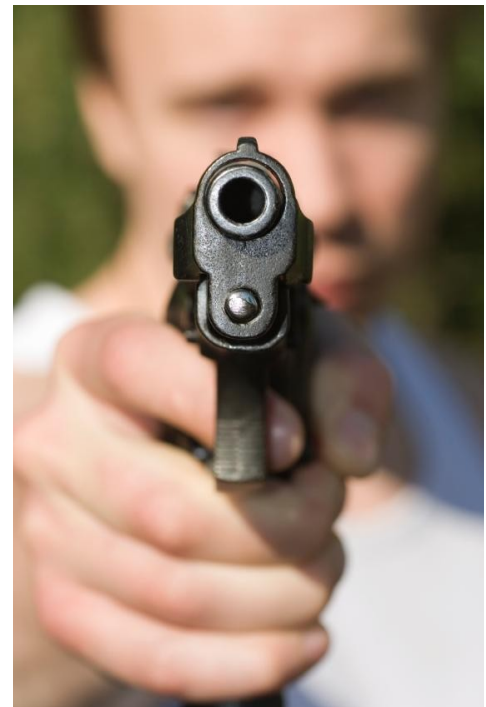
Don't dismiss the need to store guns safely. The consequences can cause serious injury or death. Follow these guidelines to keep firearms away from all unauthorized persons:

1. Always remove ammunition from guns.
2. Assure no unauthorized persons have access to your gun.
3. Place ammunition in a locked location, separate from guns. When deciding where to store ammunition, remember to select a secure place that is out of sight and reach of children.
4. Secure unloaded firearms with a gun lock, gun alarm or other type of tamper-proof device. These might render the gun inoperable.
5. Store unloaded guns in a gun cabinet, safe, or locked gun vault. Remember to place a locked storage case where children can't find it.
6. Keep gun storage keys away from the "every day" keys.

Safe Gun Handling

Take responsibility for gun ownership. Learn how to handle a gun safely. One careless act with a firearm can result in a deadly mistake.

1. Do not allow untrained or unauthorized persons to handle guns.
2. Always handle fire arms as if they were loaded.
3. Keep guns pointed in a safe direction. Never point a gun at someone. Remember that bullets can ricochet off or



penetrate walls, ceilings, doors, windows and other surfaces and objects.

4. Do not allow children, teenagers or adults to play with guns or handle them like toys.
5. Read all instruction manuals completely before using any firearm.
6. Teach children the basic elements of gun safety and instruct them on what to do if they find or see a gun. Tell them, “Never play with guns. If you find one, leave it alone and tell a grown up”.
7. Guns can be a natural curiosity for children. Repeat the “Don’t play with guns” message frequently. Reinforce it by quizzing them on what they would do if they found a gun.

Key Points for Children to Remember

Practice the following four simple steps with your young children:

- 1. STOP**
- 2. DON’T TOUCH**
- 3. LEAVE THE AREA**
- 4. TELL AN ADULT**

A gun in the home is not uncommon considering that half the homes in America have one. When gun safety isn’t practiced in these homes, lives can be destroyed and lost: husbands, wives, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and friends. Often times these needless deaths can be prevented.

You can help save lives! Practice gun safety in the home. Tell your neighbors, friends and relatives to spread the message throughout the community.

Owning a gun

It is getting harder and harder nowadays to protect yourself, not only on the streets but even inside your own house. Statistics have been showing for many years now that the crime rate has been steadily increasing considerably, many people being robbed and assaulted every single day, all over the world.

Since many of these thugs are already armed with dangerous guns and firearms, common protection methods such as stun guns or pepper sprays won't do the trick anymore, that is why everyone should consider getting themselves a real handgun in order to be protected against such threats.

Generally, there are two main types of handguns used worldwide, the revolver and the semi-automatic handgun, both of them having their advantages and disadvantages which we are going to feature in the next few lines. The first and most flexible type of handgun is the revolver, a gun featuring a cylinder consisting of a few firing chambers which keep rotating, firing the actual bullets.

The main benefit these guns bring to the owners is that they are much easier to handle compared to the semi-automatic ones, requiring less knowledge and experience in dealing with them. Another benefit that revolvers are well known for is that they feature a wider range of ammunition types.

Furthermore, revolvers are typically cheaper, being available to a wider range of people. There are a few disadvantages that revolvers feature though, one of them being the increased loading times, the entire reloading process taking much more time compared to the

semi-automatic one, while also being able to hold a smaller number of rounds.

Semi-automatic guns have a different and more advantageous firing and reloading mechanism, being able to fire a single cartridge every time the trigger is pressed. Furthermore, semi-automatic guns are easily reloaded, simply by replacing the empty magazine, from the grip of the gun, with a fully-loaded one.

They are considered to be more popular than revolvers due to their increased round capacity and faster reloading times. Because of their popularity amongst gun owners, companies have developed many accessories for semi-automatic guns, giving you the opportunity to maximize the power of your gun.

The main drawback that semi-automatic guns feature is the extensive amount of training required in order to properly handle such guns. Due to their increased fire power, the owner of the gun must have a steady grip and must not suffer of any medical conditions such as arthritis which might affect his aim in any way.

Furthermore, events like gun jams can occur very often amongst semi-automatic guns, that is why every owner must be fully prepared when dealing with this sort of problems. Another disadvantage that semi-automatic guns feature is that they're harder to operate in a real-life situation, requiring the shooter to activate both a sliding lock and a safety lever before actually shooting it.

Owning a handgun can get you out of many life or death situations, allowing you to properly protect yourself and your family, according to the law.

The paradox of the concealed personal defense weapon is that it is something you hope you will never have to use for its intended purpose, but with which you must achieve a level of mastery and familiarity comparable to the other tools you use to survive and get through your day.

You wouldn't drive to work in a car that you didn't know how to operate. You wouldn't wear a coat that was three sizes too small or use a carpenter's saw to slice up a pot roast. No, you use the tools appropriate to the job and you learn how to work with them competently.

The same holds true with a self defense pistol. You should know how to operate it and have the level of skill necessary to use it safely and effectively.

Your pistol should be powerful enough to do the job and accurate enough to hit the target. It should be completely reliable, and its operation should be as familiar to you as riding a bicycle or brushing your teeth.

You must also have a clear understanding of the legal issues surrounding the use of deadly force - when you can and when you can't - and the methods and techniques of using a gun in a self defense situation. Sounds like a



lot? You're right; it is, and if you are unwilling to master the skills and concepts of lethal force, do yourself a favor and just don't carry a gun.

What do you need to know about skills?

Handguns are not easy to shoot well. The ability to consistently put bullets into a target quickly and in the places which will stop an attacker is a skill that requires a lot of practice. A gun brandished at the wrong time and without the fighting skills necessary to employ it effectively will make a whole bunch of new problems, including getting you killed or arrested and charged with some very serious crimes.

Hence, making the decision to carry a gun should be made only with the commitment to practice and learn. At the very least, a regular practice schedule should be part of the package. This means that you will be spending a lot of time with your pistol.

The gun should be comfortable in your hand, have manageable recoil, and be sturdy enough to stand up to heavy use in practice sessions, matches, and classes. The gun should also have reasonable accuracy. You should be able to consistently put all of your shots in an area the size of a saucer at ten yards quickly.

Types of Guns

Pocket Guns. When many folks think of a concealed carry gun, they think of little-bitty pocket pistols that will easily disappear into a pocket or purse. They may be light and convenient, but that's all they are. Aside from that, they're pretty useless. They lack the power

to put down a determined attacker and they lack the accuracy to hit anything at more than spitting distance. But even more importantly, most little guns are unpleasant to shoot.

Being very light and having small handles, their muzzle flip is very bad. After a few rounds your hand may begin to hurt. If you don't learn to use it, how much good is it going to do you when the chips are down? In this group, I would include the small Berettas, Airweight snubnose revolvers, Seecamp .32's, Kel-Tek .32's and derringers. There may be a place for these pistols, but they all suffer from serious inadequacies

Medium Frame Revolvers. Even though they have been around for 165 years, revolvers remain an excellent solution. These pistols are simple to use and accurate. They can handle hot loads and larger bullets making them effective personal defense weapons. Examples of this class of pistol are the Ruger GP Series and the S&W Model 66. The ideal revolver would have a 3" to 4" barrel, a six-round cylinder, and a grip that fills your hand. The biggest drawback of these pistols is the speed of reloading, but with practice, a revolver can be reloaded as quickly as an autoloader.

Medium Frame Auto Pistols. The overwhelming majority of professional trainers, operators, law enforcement and military people prefer medium to large framed autoloading pistols. These pistols have the best combination of speed, firepower, accuracy, and power. These pistols will generally load 8-10 rounds in their magazines (or more if you can find the magazines), have full-length grips, and 3.5" or longer barrels.

These guns tend to have adequate accuracy and power, and large enough grips to be comfortable. Examples of this type of pistol would be the Glock 17, 19, 21 and 22, the S&W 39xx, 59xx, and 69xx series, the SIG 22x series, the H&K USP and P7, the Kimber ProCarry and Compact, the Springfield Champion, Para-Ordnance P12, and many others.

Large Frame Pistols and Revolvers. They shoot accurately, absorb more recoil, and develop greater muzzle velocity due to their longer barrels. I would include in this group the Beretta 92, the Colt Government Model M1911 (and clones), The N Frame S&W revolvers, Colt Python, Anaconda and their copies.

Characteristically, these guns have 5" barrels and weigh 36 oz. or more. The biggest drawback of these pistols is their weight. They get heavy and small framed people may have difficulty concealing them.

Autoloader Action Types. There are four types of actions around which semi-auto pistols are built. It's important to understand the differences:

Single Action - M1911 Colt .45 ACP and Browning Hi-Power 9mm

This is the oldest autoloader design still in service, designed by **John Browning** (with the help of the Army Ordnance Board) during the period between 1905 and 1911. The hammer must be cocked, generally by racking the slide, for the gun to fire. This design in .45 ACP, .40 S&W and .38 Super is favored by competitive shooters, FBI SWAT, FBI Hostage Rescue Team, and many special forces units because it has the best trigger, outstanding accuracy and is very fast. For the gun to be carried in a state of readiness, the hammer must

be cocked and the manual safety applied, "cocked and locked" . This looks scary and is not recommended for novices or those suffering from attention deficit disorder.

Double Action/Single Action - Beretta 92F (Armed Forces M9), most Smith & Wesson autos, SIG, Walther, and some Rugers.

This has been the standard design for most autos for the last 50 years. These pistols are cocked by the first trigger pull, but subsequent shots are cocked by the action of the slide cycling back. Consequently, the first trigger pull is long and harder (Double Action) since it is also cocking the hammer. Subsequent trigger pulls are easy (Single Action) since the hammer is already cocked. These guns have an external safety lever which puts the gun on safe and de-cocks the hammer.

This is generally thought to be the safest design since the long, heavy first trigger pull and the external safety which blocks the firing pin tend to prevent the gun from going off by accident. The criticism of this design is that it forces the shooter to learn two different trigger pulls and accuracy often suffers on the first double action shot. Most accidental discharges with these sorts of pistols are the result of the shooter forgetting to de-cock the hammer.

Double Action/Single Action with De-Cocker Only - Ruger and SIG

This is a variant of the DA/SA which is used by Ruger and SIG. It functions just like a DA/SA except the "safety" lever is not a safety. It only de-cocks the hammer, but the gun will still fire when the de-cocker is applied and the trigger is pulled. I personally do not like

this design since the de-cocker looks just like a safety lever but does not put the gun on safe.

Double Action Only - Glock, Smith & Wesson Sigma, some Berettas, some Rugers, Kahr, Kel-Tec, and others.

This is the newest action design made popular by Glock. With these pistols every trigger pull is the same and they have no external safety or decocking levers. The hammers are not cocked by the cycling of the slide (except for the Glocks which are pre-cocked by the slide cycle, and are not true double action). DAO pistols depend on the long double action trigger pull to prevent accidental discharges.

In a sense these are autoloaders which fire like revolvers. Triggers vary from model to model. Some, like the Glocks, have very light triggers. Other DAO triggers can be quite heavy and long, and can be very unpleasant to shoot. The advantage of this action is its simplicity and the fact that every trigger pull is the same.

Calibers and Power

Here, I would include the .45 ACP and the .357 Magnum. Just under them in effectiveness are the .40 S&W, the .44 Special and the 9mm. Below them are the .38 Special and the .380 ACP. There are other cartridges, but these are the most common for personal defense weapons and the ammunition is readily available.

I wouldn't be comfortable with anything smaller than a .380 (actually, I wouldn't be comfortable with anything smaller than a **.45 ACP**, but that's a different argument. See also Jim Higginbotham's "**Case for the .45 ACP**"). Like the selection of the gun, the selection

of a cartridge should be based on your ability to shoot it well. A good hit with a .380 is better than a miss with a .45. So, as a general rule, your self defense cartridge should be the largest and most powerful load that you shoot well.

The Selection Process

Don't be in a rush to buy the first gun you see. Give it a lot of thought. Ideally, shoot as many pistols as you can before you make a decision. Most gun ranges have pistols you can rent to see how they feel. If you have friends who own pistols, go shooting with them. Most will be happy to let you shoot their guns and share with you their experiences with them.

Be careful about the advice of clerks at gun stores. Some are very knowledgeable but many others are total idiots. Just because someone works at a gun store doesn't necessarily mean that he or she is an expert on personal defense pistols. They will all offer an opinion, whether they actually know anything about the matter or not.

Consider how you dress and your lifestyle. How will you carry the pistol? Can you adjust your wardrobe to accommodate your pistol? Particular body shapes may present special problems. Your physical strength and conditioning may also be a factor, i.e., powerful auto pistols tend to function better for people with strong arms and hands. How much time do you have to devote to practice? As a rule of thumb, autos require more training than revolvers, so don't pick a single-action .45 auto if you're not willing to learn to use it.

As important as any other single factor is the size and geometry of your hand. Hand size varies greatly between people and it is very important to handle a gun and note carefully the comfort of the grip and the position of the controls on the pistol. If you can't easily manipulate every control on the gun with either hand, then find a different gun.

People with short thumbs may have trouble with the safety of an M1911. People with short palms may have difficulty with the thick handles of the double-stack 9mm and .40 pistols. People with meaty hands may be "bitten" by the slide of a small auto when it cycles.

Does the gun feel good in your hand? Is the trigger smooth or is it rough and heavy? Is the frame fairly narrow so that it will conceal well? Does the gun have the right balance of power, weight and size? (Remember, bigger is better for shooting and power, but can you carry it for 8 hours if you have to?)

You will notice that I have said nothing about price. I really hate to hear people making a decision on a handgun based on price. No one wants to pay more than we have to or what is fair, but price should be the last consideration. You won't remember a hundred or so dollars extra you paid for the right pistol, but you will remember the ill-fitting bargain pistol that doesn't shoot right or feel good.

To summarize, hold it, feel it, fire it if you can, and recognize that you're going to spend a lot of time with the pistol. Remember also, that it may be called upon someday to defend your life. No, it isn't easy, and you may end up buying two or three pistols before you find the one with just the right balance of weight, power and comfort.

Holsters

The selection of a holster which fits the gun you intend to carry is critically important.

Reloads

Most of the tactical gurus recommend the carry of at least one reload. If you observe police officers, they often carry 2-4 extra magazines or speed-loaders. If your gun is an autoloader, the second magazine is a good idea for two reasons: (1) you may need the extra rounds (and it's better to have them and not need them than to need them and not have them), and (2) magazines sometimes fail and having a backup will ensure that you won't get caught with a non-functioning gun.

Hopefully, very few of us will ever need twenty one or more rounds, but the carry of a spare magazine or speed-loader is just a wise practice. One of the reasons I prefer an autoloader to a wheel gun in this role is that the flat shape of a magazine is easier to carry on your belt than the rounded and somewhat bulky shape of the speed-loader used for revolvers.

Summary of Selection Criteria

1. Your personal defense weapon should be as large and as powerful as you can shoot accurately and carry with a reasonable degree of comfort and concealment.
2. Your personal defense weapon should fit your hand perfectly.
3. You should be able to manipulate the controls of your weapon with either hand alone.

4. Your personal defense weapon should be of sturdy construction and be able to withstand heavy use and rough handling.
5. Your personal defense weapon should be accurate enough to consistently hit a target the size of a saucer at 10 yards quickly.
6. Select the largest caliber you can shoot well, and a caliber for which ammunition is readily available.
7. A good quality holster must be available for the model of pistol you intend to carry.