

USE THIS CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR FIRST SUMMER CARRY DAY.

Print it. Work through each section. Carry every day.

SECTION 1: HOLSTER SELECTION

- Body type identified: slim / average / larger build**
Determines carry position and holster architecture
- Carry position confirmed: 3-4 o'clock / AIWB / kidney**
Test from your actual summer clothing before buying
- Holster passes drawstroke test in summer shirt**
Clean draw in under 2 seconds at 5 yards is the benchmark
- Full sweat guard confirmed on chosen holster**
Required in humid climates; partial guards fail by midday
- Retention tested: gun seats and releases cleanly**
Repeat 10 dry cycles before first live carry day
- Cant angle set: 15-degree FBI cant recommended**
Breaks grip outline through single-layer fabric

SECTION 2: ANTI-PRINTING SETUP

- Ride height adjusted: grip sits below waistband**
The grip betrays you, not the muzzle. Drop it below the belt line
- Cover garment tested: patterned, 5.5 oz or heavier**
Lightweight performance shirts are functionally transparent
- Hem length confirmed: at least 2 inches below grip**
Shorter hems expose the grip outline in motion
- Side-on mirror check completed in summer shirt**
Check from the angle a bystander actually sees, not head-on
- Seated printing check completed (car/chair)**
The seated position reveals grip outline more than standing

SECTION 3: SWEAT AND MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

- Moisture-wicking undershirt in carry wardrobe**
Reduces skin contact, limits holster shift over long carry days
- Slide inspected for corrosion before summer season**
Salt from summer sweat accelerates finish degradation
- Holster interior wiped down (weekly schedule set)**
Sweat and oils degrade Kydex and destroy leather over a season
- Monthly retention check added to calendar**
Retention loosening is the most common summer failure mode

THE CORE RULE

The holster that stays on your belt every day beats the technically superior option that stays in your nightstand. Solve the comfort problem before optimizing for performance.

SECTION 4: APPENDIX CARRY (AIWB) DECISION GUIDE

- Build assessment: slim-to-average frame confirmed**
Larger midsections experience prohibitive seated grip pressure
- Compact pistol selected (not full-size)**
Full-size barrels create muzzle contact pressure in AIWB position
- Seated comfort test completed (15 minutes minimum)**
If carry becomes painful at a desk, strong-side is your answer
- AIWB covers 80% or more of your carry scenarios**
If it fails in the car, at work, or at a cookout, shift position
- Strong-side fallback holster available if AIWB fails**
Consistency beats position preference every time

SECTION 5: DAILY CARRY COMMITMENT TRACKER

- Carry streak goal set: minimum 30 consecutive days**
Track skips honestly. A skip is a system failure, not a character flaw
- Skip log started: record every day gun stayed home**
Identify the pattern, then fix the gear or the habit
- Drawstroke timed at start of season (baseline set)**
3 seconds from concealment at 5 yards is the summer benchmark
- Drawstroke re-timed at 30 days (compare to baseline)**
If your summer holster slows you down, the holster is the variable
- Legal carry requirements confirmed for your state**
Laws change. Verify your state's current carry statutes before the season

QUICK REFERENCE: TOP 5 IWB HOLSTERS FOR SUMMER 2026

Holster	Price	Best For	Sweat Guard
Vedder LightTuck	\$69.99	Average to larger / 3-4 o'clock	Full
PHLster Floodlight	\$89.99	Slim to average / AIWB	Full
Alien Gear ShapeShift	\$79.99	All builds / multi-position	Partial
DeSantis Slim-Tuk	\$49.99	Slim and athletic / 3-4 o'clock	Minimal
CYA Base IWB	\$29.99	Budget / first-time buyer	Partial

SECTION 6: 30-DAY SUMMER CARRY STREAK LOG

Check each day you carry. Circle skipped days and note the reason below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SKIP NOTES:

GET THE FULL GUIDE

Download the full summer holster guide at GunCarrier.com. Holster picks, body-type matching, carry position guide, and anti-printing tips in one place.