

New CCW Carrier Quick-Start Checklist

Your first 30 days, mapped out in plain steps.

GEAR AND FIT

- ☐ Test-fit at least two carry handguns in person before buying. Fit and controllability beat size specs.
- ☐ Confirm the gun fits your hand and you can reach every control without shifting your grip.
- ☐ Example: a mid-size compact like the Walther PDP Compact balances a full grip feel with a concealable frame for many hand sizes.
- ☐ Buy a quality holster and gun belt built for your exact carry position, not a generic bundle.

DRAWSTROKE AND CARRY POSITION

- ☐ Test your draw from the actual clothes you wear most days, not gym or range clothes.
- ☐ Practice the draw dry (unloaded, no ammo present) until it is smooth before adding a timer.
- ☐ Confirm the gun does not print or shift when you sit, bend, or reach overhead.

LEGAL BASICS

- ☐ Learn your state's specific use-of-force law before your first day of carry.
- ☐ Know your state's duty-to-retreat or stand-your-ground status.
- ☐ Know your state's duty-to-inform rules for traffic stops and encounters with police.
- ☐ Get self-defense legal insurance that covers criminal defense, not just civil liability.

TRAINING FLOOR

- ☐ Take a structured class covering safe handling, marksmanship, and your state's use-of-force law.
- ☐ Drill drawstroke-to-first-shot at 3 to 7 yards, the realistic range of most defensive encounters.
- ☐ Schedule weekly dry-fire practice and monthly live-fire range time. Log every session.

FIRST 30 DAYS

- ☐ Week 1 to 2: finalize gun, holster, and belt. Confirm the draw works in real clothing.
- ☐ Week 2 to 3: complete a structured class and learn your state's core legal framework.
- ☐ Week 3 to 4: begin weekly dry-fire practice and schedule your first live-fire range session.
- ☐ Ongoing: carry daily and consistently. Inconsistent carriers are disproportionately unarmed when it matters most.