

Low-Recoil Handgun Buyer's Checklist

A GunCarrier.com field guide for matching a beginner home defense handgun to the hand that actually has to use it.

1. Before You Shop

- ☐ Confirm your state and local rules on handgun purchase and home storage.
- ☐ Decide your primary use: home defense only, or home defense plus daily carry.
- ☐ Set a budget that covers practice ammunition, not just the gun itself.

2. At the Range or Gun Counter

- ☐ Test full firing grip: all fingers seat naturally, no overlap or strain.
- ☐ Confirm trigger reach: the finger pad rests flat on the trigger face.
- ☐ Rack the slide or open the cylinder without help or excessive effort.
- ☐ Fire at least 20 rounds through any candidate gun before deciding.
- ☐ Compare felt recoil across two to three candidate handguns in one session.

3. Confirming Real Controllability

- ☐ Land consistent hits on a torso-size target at 3 to 7 yards.
- ☐ Reacquire the sights quickly between shots without excessive muzzle rise.
- ☐ Reload the gun against a time limit without fumbling.

4. After You Buy

- ☐ Store the gun for fast, safe access that fits your household.
- ☐ Schedule a beginner handgun safety or defensive pistol course.
- ☐ Dry-fire weekly and live-fire at least monthly to build real competency.
- ☐ Log every training session: date, instructor, and course for your own record.

This checklist is general education, not legal or medical advice. Firearm laws vary by state and locality. Always complete a certified safety course before carrying or storing a defensive firearm. GunCarrier.com