

YOUR FIRST 30 DAYS

CARRYING CONCEALED

SAFE HABITS. SMART DECISIONS.

What to focus on from the start.



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KNOW YOUR PERMIT.

Understand what your permit allows and build a safe routine.

01 Read it before you carry.

Confirm your name, expiration date and listed firearms. Read every condition from your issuing agency. A course certificate is not a carry permit. [1]

02 Keep the essentials with you.

Carry your valid CCW license on your person. Use only a firearm authorized on your license and lawfully registered to you. Ask your issuing agency how to correct an error or update your permit. [1]

03 Make sober decisions.

Do not drink alcohol while carrying, and do not carry while impaired by alcohol, medication or drugs. California also restricts carrying in places primarily serving alcohol for on-site consumption. [1]

KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY

Save your issuing agency's contact information. Start your renewal process 60 days before your permit expires.

These are areas to focus on throughout your first 30 days, with no set order or daily schedule. Build habits you can continue using.



BUILD A SAFE ROUTINE.

Choose equipment you can use safely and consistently.

01 Start with the holster.

Use a holster made for your exact firearm and any installed accessories. It should fully cover the trigger guard, retain the firearm and attach securely. Check compatibility and fit yourself using the firearm and holster manufacturers' instructions before carrying.

02 Check fit without rushing.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions to check fit with an unloaded firearm or inert trainer in a safe, controlled setting. Keep live ammunition out of the area. Confirm the holster stays secure when sitting and walking. Stop using it if it shifts or needs repeated adjustment.

03 Leave it secured.

Avoid unnecessary handling or public adjustments. Never leave a firearm loose in a pocket, bag or vehicle. Keep keys, clothing and other objects away from the trigger area.

KEEP THE SAFETY RULES WITH YOU

Treat every firearm as loaded. Control its direction. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to fire. Know your target and what is beyond it. [2]



THINK AHEAD.

A change of plans should never become a rushed firearm decision.

01 Check every destination.

Review current restrictions before each trip, including rules for the property and parking areas. Check your agency's guidance and current law. A CCW permit does not authorize carry everywhere. [1, 3]

02 Have a storage plan.

If carry is prohibited, decide on a lawful, secure alternative before you leave. Do not assume a locked car is enough or that every parking lot permits storage. If unsure, leave the firearm secured at home until you verify the rules. [3]

03 Choose a calm exit.

Pay attention to your surroundings. Avoid arguments, road rage and following someone who is leaving. Use a calm voice, create space and leave when safe. Do not display a firearm to win an argument. [1]

IF YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH POLICE

Keep your hands visible. Follow instructions and your agency's disclosure rules. Never reach for the firearm or permit without instructions; explain where they are first.



COMMON RESTRICTED PLACES

A California CCW permit does not authorize carry everywhere.

SCHOOLS & CHILDCARE

K-12 school grounds, preschools, childcare facilities, and college or university campuses.

AIRPORTS

Airport property and terminals are restricted. Never take a carry firearm through a TSA checkpoint; lawful checked-baggage transport is a separate process.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transit facilities covered by Penal Code 171.7, including covered vehicles and stations. Check the system and legal transport exceptions before travel.

GOVERNMENT & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Courthouses, state and local government buildings, police stations, jails and detention facilities.

BARS & RESTAURANTS SERVING ALCOHOL

The restriction applies even if you are not drinking.

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS & PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Also be aware of youth centers, athletic areas and sports facilities.

OTHER COMMON RESTRICTED VENUES

Stadiums, arenas, casinos, amusement parks, zoos, museums and polling places.

CHECK THE LOCATION BEFORE YOU GO

This is a basic list, not every restriction. Parking areas may also be covered. Exceptions and court orders matter. The broad SB 2 public-transit ban is blocked, but Penal Code 171.7 is separate. Verify current rules before carrying.

OFFICIAL REFERENCES: [DOJ guidance](#) | [Transit law](#) | [TSA](#)



SECURE IT. KEEP LEARNING.

Responsible carry includes what you do when the day is over.

01 Make home storage consistent.

Use secure storage that prevents access by children, visitors and other unauthorized people. DOJ safety guidance recommends storing firearms unloaded and locked, with ammunition stored separately. Protect keys and access codes. [2]

02 Review your routine.

Check your holster and attachment hardware for wear. Follow manufacturer instructions for maintenance. You are responsible for checking your equipment. Stop using damaged or poorly fitting gear. Resolve concerns using the manufacturer's instructions or support before carrying.

03 Plan your next training.

Schedule continued safety instruction and supervised practice. Consider de-escalation and first-aid training. Start your renewal process 60 days before your permit expires.

HABITS TO KEEP BUILDING

Can you explain your permit conditions, your destination-check routine and your storage plan? Identify one question to resolve and one habit to improve.



BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT

Pause for a moment. Resolve any uncertainty before you carry.

PERMIT

☐

My license is valid, with me, and covers this firearm.

CONDITIONS

☐

I understand and follow my issuing agency's requirements.

READINESS

☐

I am sober, alert and able to make sound decisions.

HOLSTER

☐

My firearm is secured and the trigger guard is fully covered.

DESTINATIONS

☐

I have checked today's stops and applicable restrictions.

STORAGE

☐

I have a lawful, secure plan if I cannot carry somewhere.

MINDSET

☐

I will avoid arguments and leave trouble when safe.

WHEN YOU GET HOME

Secure the firearm against unauthorized access. Do not leave it on a counter, in an unattended bag or where a child can reach it.



SOURCES & NEXT STEPS

What to focus on during your first 30 days and beyond.

This guide provides general education, not individualized legal advice. It does not replace hands-on instruction, your permit conditions or current law. For legal questions, consult a qualified California attorney.

Location restrictions can be affected by court orders. The statute alone may not describe what is currently enforceable. Verify the rule for your destination before carrying.

[1] California Penal Code 26200

License conditions and restrictions | Tap the heading to open.

[2] California DOJ: Firearm Safety

Handling and storage safety guidance | Tap the heading to open.

[3] California Penal Code 26230

Location restrictions; verify current court orders | Tap the heading to open.

Check with your issuing agency

Use the official website of the sheriff or police department that issued your permit. Confirm permit conditions and current requirements.

KEEP YOUR TRAINING GOING.

New to CCW or getting ready to renew?
Explore training and resources at 559CCW.com.

INITIAL COURSE

RENEWAL COURSE

