



Many people put so much effort into getting their first handgun, that they forget about all the other important stuff that may be needed. In addition to budgeting for the firearm itself, you also need to consider the additional expenses that are critical to success with that firearm.

Here are 12 things you need to buy when you own a handgun:

1. Gun Safe:

When the firearm is not on your person, where will you be storing that firearm. You will need a lockable compartment. We also encourage that the compartment be secured or mounted so that a burglar will not be able to “grab and go”.



2. Ammunition:

If you intend to have the firearm for self-defense, you will want to have ammunition in the house. We recommend keeping 100 rounds in the house, plus you will need extra rounds for training sessions. Remember to always rotate your ammunition, using the oldest ammo first.

3. Holster(s):

If you intend to use this firearm to defend yourself, you should invest in at least one quality holster. It may take a few holsters to find the one that works best for you. There are many different types of holsters available, do some research. Most importantly, the holster needs to be comfortable since you may be carrying the firearm 10-12 hours a day.



4. Cleaning Kit:

Every time you shoot your firearm you should clean it. You should also clean it about every six months even if you used it or not. Buying the full kit at first is a great idea, however after a while you will find you only need to replace certain items.

5. Storage Case:

There will be days when you want to transport your firearm, perhaps from your home to the range. Sometimes, firearm manufacturers sell the firearm in a case. However, these cases are usually not strong enough for travel, and you should have a sturdier one for this purpose. If you plan to fly with the firearm you will need a sturdier, more secure case (check laws and regulations about traveling with firearms)



6. Spare Magazines / Speed Loader:



Both for convenience in training, as well as for self-defense situations, you will want extra magazines for your semi-automatic and a speed loader for your revolver. Reloading a firearm under pressure can be challenging. These simple additions could save your life.



7. Light:

It is always recommended to have a good light as a required accessory to any firearm. The ability to identify a target in a low light situation is critical. Many handguns often have rails that fit universal accessories like lights.



8. Safety Glasses:

When training at the range, eye protection is mandatory. Get a pair of safety glasses that fit you properly and won't fall off or slide down. Many safety glasses are offered with lenses to help with bright sunlight and picture clarity.

9. Ear Protection:

As with safety glasses, ear protection is mandatory at firing ranges. Invest in a decent pair of earmuff style protectors. Basic ear plugs will not be effective enough to protect your ears. New electronic earmuffs allow you to hear a person speaking while helping protect hearing from harmful impulse noises, such as gunfire.





10. Range Membership:

When looking for a range for training, keep in mind a few things. Does the range allow training with the firearm I am purchasing? Some ranges don't allow certain caliber firearms or rifles. Does the range have an indoor and outdoor range? This is especially important if you live in a climate that has a cold winter season.

11. Training:

The most important accessory for a gun owner is to have proper education and training on how to operate a weapon in many different scenarios safely. Educating yourself in tactical and defensive firearm handling gives you the edge needed to be a capable marksman.



12. Time:

Perhaps the most important part of purchasing a firearm for self-defense use is the need to budget one's time to train. Commit yourself to a schedule to train regularly and block the time out on your calendar. And remember, each time you go to the range to train, could be the last time you do so before you need to use your weapon in self-defense.

To offer our members a one-stop shopping solution, Beyond The Range offers training and articles for new firearm owners. Our mission is to help build the confidence of firearm owners, which is important in developing the skills of shooting and decision making. If you have any questions, feel free to reach us through our website at www.BeyondTheRange.net