

# Maryland

**Total prohibition** (+0, *Baltimore politics make it a nightmare for gun owners*) **Total freedom**

0 ----- 10 ----- 20 ----- 30 ----- 40 ----- 50 ----- 60 ----- 70 ----- 80 ----- 90 ----- 100



## Traveler's checklist:

- \***Standard firearms ownership:** unrestricted, but permit required for handgun sales
- \***Semi-auto gun / high capacity magazines:** import of *assault weapons* prohibited; transfer or sale of over 10 shot magazines prohibited
- \***Machine gun / suppressor ownership:** state registration required of machine guns; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- \***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law with notable exceptions, see below
- \***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- \***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas unless one possesses a Maryland permit
- \***Concealed carry:** license required; granted on a discretionary basis; no reciprocity for carry permits from other states
- \***Vehicle carry for non-permittees:** loaded, readily accessible handguns prohibited; exceptions exist for unloaded transport; rifles & shotguns must remain unloaded
- \***State Parks:** possession and carry of firearms prohibited except at designated ranges
- \***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- \***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- \***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college administrative policy
- \***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited

Maryland has a multitude of restrictions on the possession of handguns and military pattern semi-autos (assault weapons). The state requires handgun purchasers to be licensed. Any firearm classified as an “assault weapon” is banned from import entirely. And the sale or transfer of any over 10 shot magazine is prohibited. Handgun carry is similarly regulated so that it is almost impossible for an unlicensed person to carry a handgun legally.

**Maryland permittees:** The state requires a license to carry a loaded handgun on one's person or in a vehicle. The state police issue such permits on a highly discretionary basis to persons demonstrating a *compelling need* for a 2-year term. Maryland will issue permits to nonresidents on rare occasions. But the state will not recognize carry permits from other states.

**Persons without Maryland permits:** A person without a Maryland permit may not carry a handgun on foot or in a vehicle in a loaded or readily accessible manner. But he may transport an unloaded handgun in a secure case if he is traveling to or from a sport shooting event, bonafide gun show, hunting, target practice, repair shop or place of purchase. Magazines may remain loaded while in a vehicle as long as they are separate from any handgun.

Travelers *passing through* the state may transport inaccessible handguns even if they are not traveling to one of these events. The guns must be unloaded, cased and, either stowed in the trunk, or locked in a case if the vehicle has no trunk. Ammunition should be in separate cases.

**All Persons:** Rifles and shotguns may be transported in a vehicle for any reason. But, due to Maryland's conservation/hunting laws, the weapons must be unloaded and secured in commercial cases or gun racks regardless of whether one has a Maryland permit.

Maryland's preemption statute provides uniformity for some gun laws throughout the state. But localities may still regulate the discharge of firearms within their limits and the carry of firearms within 100 yards of schools, parks, churches, public buildings, and places of public assembly. A recently enacted self-defense law provides homeowners with civil immunity from damages sustained by unlawful intruders against whom the homeowner employs deadly force.