

# New Hampshire

**Total prohibition** (+0, freedom & firearms, who said Yankees don't like guns?) **Total freedom**

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



## Traveler's checklist:

- \***Standard firearms ownership:** unrestricted, no permit or license required
- \***Semi-auto / high capacity magazines:** no restrictions on possession or sale
- \***Machine gun ownership:** no state restrictions, compliance with federal law only
- \***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law; firearm laws uniform throughout the state
- \***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- \***Open carry:** unrestricted under state law and generally accepted
- \***Concealed carry:** "shall issue" licenses granted; reciprocity available for nonresidents with carry permits from their home states (see p. 65); nonresidents may also apply for in-state carry permits.
- \***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handguns must be unloaded and may be carried openly or secured in gun cases in the passenger compartment; rifles & shotguns must be unloaded while in a vehicle
- \***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- \***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

Citizens of New Hampshire are proud of their state's dedication to personal liberties. New Hampshire's motto, "Live Free or Die," illustrates how strongly the state supports the ideas of the founding fathers through its legal treatment of firearms. Despite its geographical location in the restrictive northeast, the "Granite State" reflects the best in American constitutional values.

**Recognized permittees:** A license is required to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle or concealed upon one's person. The police chief or sheriff of a resident's hometown issues such a permit for a 4-year term. Permits are also issued to nonresidents through the state police. Nonresident permits cost \$100.00 and require the applicant to have a carry permit from his home state. New Hampshire will recognize permits from states that also recognize New Hampshire if the permittee is a resident of the state issuing the permit. Permittees may carry in most public areas except courthouses and posted property.

**Persons without recognized permits:** Vehicle carry of a handgun is limited to a weapon that is unloaded. An unloaded handgun may be carried openly or secured in a gun case, glove compartment or console box. Detached magazines may remain loaded as long as they are not inserted into the handgun. New Hampshire only prohibits the carry of a *loaded* handgun in a vehicle without a license. The position of the weapon is not regulated. So an unloaded handgun, with an unattached, loaded magazine nearby, can be carried just about anywhere in a vehicle.

Open carry of a loaded handgun while on foot is allowed in most public areas except courthouses and posted private property. A concealed, *unloaded* handgun may be carried with a loaded magazine as long as the magazine is not inserted in the weapon. New Hampshire's preemption law prevents localities from regulating this and most other aspects of gun ownership.

**All Persons:** Rifles and shotguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and should be kept in gun cases, gun racks, or trunks. Loaded magazines for these weapons may be carried if they are not attached to any firearm. New Hampshire only authorizes handgun carry by persons with recognized licenses. Long gun transport is the same for both permittees and non-permittees.