

New Jersey

Total prohibition

(+0, a good example of how bad things can truly become)

Total freedom

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

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- ***Standard firearms ownership:** restricted, carry permit needed for handgun possession unless exception applies; firearm purchaser identification card required for long guns
- ***Semi-auto gun / high capacity magazines:** highly restricted, all firearms deemed “assault weapons” and any over 15 shot magazines are banned from entering the state
- ***Machine gun / suppressor ownership:** personal ownership prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** firearm laws are strict, no state preemption
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas unless one has a New Jersey carry permit
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued on a “may issue” basis to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** firearms may not be carried in a vehicle without a purchaser identification card or NJ carry permit
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***State Parks:** firearms possession or use prohibited
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7

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Travelers to New Jersey should be prepared for highly restrictive firearm laws. The state’s urban demographics and left-wing political bent have made it a hell house for gun owners.

New Jersey permittees: New Jersey requires a license to carry a loaded handgun on your person or in a vehicle. New Jersey residents may apply to their local police chief for such a permit. Non-residents must apply directly to the Superintendent of State Police. Such licenses are then issued by a state Superior court for a two-year term and are granted on a highly discretionary basis. The state does not recognize any out-of-state permits. And despite efforts by former Gov. Christie to relax issuance standards, citizens have found it almost impossible to obtain a carry permit absent a "compelling" need.

Persons without New Jersey permits: Handgun possession outside of one’s home or business generally requires a carry permit issued by a New Jersey Superior court. Rifle and shotgun possession requires a firearm purchaser identification card issued by a person’s local police chief or by the state police if the applicant is an out-of-state resident. A card or permit is also required for vehicle transport of these firearms. Strict exceptions to this prohibition allow the transport of unloaded and securely cased firearms without a card or permit if a person is traveling directly to a hunting engagement, firearms exhibition, repair facility or target range. But general transport within the state is prohibited. Travelers lacking an identification card or failing to qualify for an exception should leave all firearms at home unless transporting per McClure-Volkmer (p.5).

Open carry of a handgun without a New Jersey license is strictly prohibited. New Jersey does not differentiate between open or concealed carry. Both carry modes are prohibited unless one is engaged in hunting or shooting activity in an area officially sanctioned for such pursuit.

All Persons: Personal ownership of military-pattern semi-automatic weapons, over 15 shot magazines, machine guns and most hollow point handgun ammo is prohibited. Travelers should take care to leave all such items behind when traveling to New Jersey. An exception exists for residents to keep hollow point ammunition in their homes. But importation of such ammunition by nonresident travelers is prohibited.