

# Maryland

Total prohibition

(+0, Baltimore politics make it a nightmare for gun owners)

Total freedom

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- \***Standard firearms & ammo:** no restrictions on possession; handgun sales require permit - see p.3
- \***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** import of *assault weapons* prohibited; transfer or sale of over 10 shot magazines prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- \***Machine guns & suppressors:** 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
- \***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*:** generally limited to handguns and knives
- \***Vehicle carry for non-permittees:** loaded, readily accessible handguns prohibited; exceptions exist for unloaded transport; rifles & shotguns must remain unloaded
- \***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college administrative policy
- \***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- \***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- \***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.8
- \***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
- \***Hotels:** statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- \***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots (some local postings possible)

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Maryland has many restrictions on the sale & importation of handguns and military pattern semi-autos (assault weapons). Handgun purchasers must 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 unlicensed carry is next to impossible.

**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. Permittees are prohibited from carrying on K-12 public school property, at public demonstrations, legislative bldgs., some hotels, state-owned public buildings, highway rest areas, most child care centers, state forest & park lands and adult rehabilitation centers.

**Persons without Maryland permits:** A non-permittee 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, 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 the weapons must be unloaded and secured in commercial cases or gun racks regardless of whether one has a Maryland permit.

Despite a preemption statute, localities may still regulate the discharge of guns within their limits and the carry of firearms within 100 yards of schools, parks, churches, public buildings, and places of public assembly. These local restrictions, coupled with state prohibitions, make carry in Maryland problematic at best.