

Missouri



Total prohibition (+0, the “Show Me” state is the “show room” for good gun laws) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, gun laws uniform except localities may regulate the open carry of loaded weapons by non-permittees in public areas
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, but some local regulation of loaded carry possible – see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: include any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for permittees, but subject to college policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Missouri permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by permittees & those exercising permitless carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed 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 – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Missouri developed a well-earned reputation during the Civil War as a place where personal gun ownership was a necessity for survival. With roving bands of guerillas from both sides exacting a heavy toll on the population, farmers in the hinterland needed plenty of firepower just to stay alive. Missourians continue this tradition today by their recognition of “constitutional carry.”

Recognized permittees: Despite allowing concealed carry without a permit (see below), licenses are still issued by local sheriffs to qualified residents who are at least 19 years old, or 18 if a military member. These permits are valid for five years and allow the carry of any firearm. Extended term and lifetime licenses are also offered. But these permits are only valid in Missouri and, unlike the 5 year permits, do not qualify for recognition outside Missouri.

Missouri does not issue permits to non-residents but will recognize all other states’ carry permits. Recognized permittees may carry openly or concealed in most public areas. But carry is prohibited in law enforcement offices, polling places, large sports arenas, K-12 schools, courthouses, childcare facilities, amusement parks, churches (absent consent of church leadership), government meetings & posted facilities, colleges, hospitals, casinos, bars, and posted private establishments. These restrictions only apply to buildings. Weapons secured in vehicles in parking lots are lawful. And any violation of the above-listed restrictions is not a criminal offense for the permittee who is a first time violator.

Persons without recognized permits: Any U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is 19 or older may carry a loaded firearm anywhere in a vehicle. The glove compartment, console box or under the seat are all legitimate placement areas. Concealed carry on foot is also allowed as long as such carry does not occur in one of the prohibited areas listed in the preceding paragraph. But unlike permittees, carry by non-permittees in these areas can result in criminal penalties ranging from misdemeanors to, in the case of K-12 schools, felony charges. Only a carry violation on posted private property would be a non-criminal offense.

Open carry on foot is allowed in most public areas with one notable exception. Cities may prohibit the open carry of loaded firearms by anyone without a license. Local ordinances exist which prohibit any non-permittee from having an openly displayed, loaded gun in public.

All Persons: Missouri’s preemption law prevents most local gun regulation (despite St. Louis’ attempts to illegally ban guns in parks). But, be aware, that state law prohibits gun possession by anyone on a bus.