



THE GUN FACTOR

ERIC W. EICHENBERGER

WWW.SURVIVALSULLIVAN.COM

THE GUN FACTOR

by Eric W. Eichenberger

www.SurvivalSullivan.com

Disclaimer

No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

It is illegal to copy, distribute or create derivative works of this book in part or in whole, or to contribute to the distribution, copying or creation of derivative works of this book.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information regarding the subject matter covered. It is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services.

If legal, accounting, medical, psychological, or any other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought.

The author and publisher specifically disclaim any and all liability arising directly or indirectly from the use or application of any information contained in this publication.

Table of Contents

Disclaimer	3
Table of Contents	4
Introduction	6
The Perfect Gun	11
Rifles	14
The AR-15	15
The AK 47	18
The M1 Carbine	20
The Ruger 10/22	21
Marlin 1895 GS	22
Henry Arms AR-7	23
Shotguns	25
The Mossberg 590 Mariner	25
Remington 870	27
The Winchester Super X Pump Defender	27
The Benelli Nova Tactical Shotgun	28
Handguns	29
Sig Sauer P226	30
The Glock 36	31
The Glock 17	31
The When, Why and How	32

Gun Laws	32
Who Can't Carry a Gun?	33
When You Can Use it.....	34
Zeroing a Rifle	35
How to Clean Your Gun	36
Beyond Guns.....	39

Introduction

I can give you several reasons why I decided to write an entire course about guns for self-defense and prepping purposes. The most important reason has to be Executive Order 13603, declared March 16th, 2012.

This executive order gives the Federal Government the power to declare Martial law in the event of a natural disaster, or in the event of war. The order also gives the Federal Government the authority to seize any and all goods and services deemed necessary to further support and maintain the military and the government.

To help you to better understand what this order means, the government monitors preppers such as you and me. They keep a close watch as we prepare for emergencies by amassing goods while everyone else just sits around doing nothing. But in the event of a natural disaster or during wartime, our entire stockpile can be seized.

This includes all food, water, medicines, firearms, and ammunition. Executive order 13603 gives them the power to violate our Constitutional and Civil Rights by seizing all personally held weapons, ammunition, and other goods to be used to further their own agenda.

So, while all the *sheeple* who blindly followed and sat around doing nothing to help themselves or anyone else, our supplies can be taken and distributed to them and/or the military. This leaves us, in times when crime 100% for sure WILL increase and uncertainty will be the only certainty.

For example, times when the ability to feed, care for, and defend our loved ones, and ourselves will be stripped away by our very own government. This is only a sample of the hardships that will happen in a SHTF/TEOTWAWKI event in which the U.S. could face total (or partial) Martial Law.

The thing is, there are numerous incidents happening “at peace time” as we all go about our daily routines (with most sheeple totally oblivious to the realities at hand), that will make you want to always carry a gun with you when you are out in public.

You will probably even want to sleep with your defensive hand gun under your pillow when you sleep at night. Whether metaphorically speaking or literally, in reality, under the pillow’s not the best place to put it at night. But I will show you where the best place to keep it handy is.

You might also be unpleasantly surprised to learn that calling the police for help in an emergency is not really going to do you any good when you are face to face with an attacker inside your home. Regardless of whether he’s an armed robber, or a rapist, or whatever the case may be, you are on your own in that situation, so you better know what to do.

As a matter of fact, in many large cities when you call 911 you just get put on hold for so long that the crime will be over and the criminals long gone before they answer your call, much less respond with an officer on scene. In many cases the police might not even come at all! Like the old saying goes, when seconds count the police are minutes away.

A good example of this is from 2005, when Jessica Gonzales, a 38 years old woman, obtained a restraining order for her estranged husband. According to the terms of the restraining order, he was not supposed to come within 100 yards of her or their three daughters. In complete disregard of the restraining order, he violated it by taking the girls out to the amusement park.

Jessica placed 4 calls to the police and even went to the police station herself in an attempt to get the police involved. However, they took no action. A few hours later, at around 3:20 AM, the husband came to the police station and opened fire. After killing him in a gun battle, the police then discovered that he had murdered his three daughters inside the car.

Mrs. Gonzales sued the Castle Rock police for failure to enforce the restraining order, unfortunately she lost. The Supreme Court decided that this failure did not constitute a property right. Of course, even if she had won the case, she still would not have been able to resurrect her three little girls back from the dead.

Another sickening case occurred in 1981. This horrific crime was that of 3 young women who sued the District of Columbia. The reason they sued? Because their calls for help gone unheeded resulted in 14 hours of hell, as they were beaten and raped while waiting for the police to arrive.

The Supreme Court ruled that *“The police are not liable for the actions of a criminal or for failing to provide adequate protection”*. While I am not suggesting that the police aren’t doing their job, I cannot comprehend why they failed to respond to the calls for help in the two cases presented above.

The point I’m trying to stress is that if you REALLY want to increase your chances of surviving, or better yet, PREVENTING such traumatic events, you can’t rely on a 911 call. Even if they do come as fast as they can, it might still be too late.

Before we begin, I’m going to leave you with a few reasons why carrying a gun is not crazy... not crazy at all.

I don't carry a gun to kill people.

I carry a gun to keep from being killed.

I don't carry a gun to scare people.

I carry a gun because sometimes this world can be a scary place.

I don't carry a gun because I'm paranoid.

I carry a gun because there are real threats in the world.

I don't carry a gun because I'm evil.

I carry a gun because I have lived long enough to see the evil in the world and the necessity to protect myself from it.

I don't carry a gun because I hate the government.

I carry a gun because I understand the constitutional limitations of government.

I don't carry a gun because I'm angry.

I carry a gun so that I don't have to spend the rest of my life hating myself for failing to be prepared to protect my family and property.

I don't carry a gun because I want to shoot someone.

I carry a gun because I want to die at a ripe old age in my bed, and not on a sidewalk somewhere tomorrow afternoon.

I don't carry a gun just because I'm constitutionally guaranteed this right.

I carry a gun because history has proven it to be the final defense against a tyrannical, oppressive, police state-type of government.

I don't carry a gun to make me feel like a superior person.

I carry a gun because only those prepared know how to take care of themselves and the ones they love.

I don't carry a gun because I feel inadequate.

I carry a gun because being unarmed and facing three armed thugs, I am inadequate and will probably get killed.

I don't carry a gun because I love it.

I carry a gun because I love life and the people who make it meaningful to me.

Police Protection is an oxymoron. Free citizens must protect themselves.

Police do not protect you from crime, they usually just investigate the crime after it happens and then call someone in to clean up the mess.

Personally, I carry a gun because I'm too young to die and too old to give up my liberty and freedom.

- Anonymous



The Perfect Gun

You probably know what I'm going to say, right? There is no such thing as any one perfect gun when it comes to survival and protection. If there was, I wouldn't have written an entire course about it. I would have simply told you what it was, and then recommended that you get it and [stockpile](#) as much [ammo](#) and spare parts for it as possible.

There can, however, be the perfect gun for a particular situation. For example, you don't see big game hunters in Africa taking a .22 LR revolver on safari do you? No, and that's because that is not the right gun for the situation.

Stockpiling firearms and ammunition should be viewed the same as any other necessity of life that you would stockpile, like food, water, and medicine.

When you do start shopping for a weapon to add to your SHTF/TEOTWAWKI stockpile, there are a few basic characteristics that a survival gun needs to have.

- It should be affordable. While you don't want to buy the cheapest gun available (for obvious reasons), you also don't have to spend a small fortune to acquire a reliable, quality firearm. While I suggest that you buy the best gun that you can afford, keep in mind that if you have a \$2000 budget for a firearm, you can buy 2 or 3 very serviceable weapons for that same money. So think before you buy.
- It should be of a caliber that utilizes ammunition that is plentiful. While one certain caliber may be readily available NOW, that doesn't mean that it will still be around if the SHTF. However, you can increase your likeliness of obtaining ammunition in hard times by utilizing a caliber that IS very plentiful. Common calibers like 9mm, .45ACP, and .40 S&W are most likely to be around after a collapse than say .380 or .32 ACP, simply because they are more commonly used not only by civilians, but by military and law enforcement as well.
- It should be durable (you never know how tough things will get). Think about common popular semi-automatic pistols. Now think how well they will function if they were to be run over by a truck, do you still think a polymer gun is the ticket? Stick with STEEL. Stainless steel is even better because there are no concerns about the finish rusting from exposure.
- It should be reliable. A survival gun MUST be able to function under any conditions. Muddy, dirty, sand, heat, cold, they have to go bang every time.

If you do choose to carry a firearm for self defense, and I cannot stress this enough, you have to know how to use it. The toughest AK47 out there is not going to defend you if you haven't developed the skills required to utilize it. Just like any other survival skill that you may possess, don't wait for

Doomsday before you try to put your knowledge into use. You must practice your skills regularly to keep them honed and sharp.

After careful consideration I have selected what I think are the best guns you can get for survival, and for personal defense. I have divided these selections into three categories: shotguns, rifles and handguns. Among these selections we will look at the pros and cons of each. I suggest that you take do your research and take your time before you purchase your first weapon. After all, only fools rush in.

Go to your local gun store, pawnshop, or to a gun show and put your hands on as many different guns that you can. The way a gun feels in your hand is important for a few reasons.

The first reason, in the case of handguns, is that you need the gun to fit your hand properly in order to maintain a proper grip on the weapon. If it is too big for your hand you will have difficulty holding it, and therefore difficulty in controlling it.

On the other hand, if it is too small for your hand you might have issues with the slide hitting your hand and causing it to have failure to eject and failure to feed issues by impeding the slide function.

It is also important to keep in mind the caliber of the weapon you choose. If it is an uncommon round it can be expensive and difficult to find, whereas a common caliber, like 9mm, .45, and .38 special for example, are very common and so the most plentiful and available.

Rifles

The reason I started with rifles is that I feel that a rifle is probably the prepper's best friend. They not only serve well for personal protection, but also are an excellent choice for hunting. IF you choose the right rifle you can find one that serves both purposes adequately.

If you are out in the wilderness and have no food reserves, or your stockpile is running low and you need to replenish your supplies, a good rifle will do an excellent job of providing fresh game for the table for you and your family.

One pro for the rifle is that you can use it for hunting as well as self defense. In the event of SHTF/TEOTWAWKI you will need to be able to do both.

Let's take a look at the desired features of a good rifle for SHTF/TEOTWAWKI:

- It should be semi-automatic
- It should be accurate to at least minimum 300 meters/yards
- It should have a detachable magazine
- It should be of a center fire caliber (sorry you .22 LR proponents)
- It should have a magazine capacity of 20 rounds or more (check your state laws first)
- It should have iron sights (even if you choose a scoped rifle it should have iron sights for backup).

I would say there are exceptions to these requirements, like the SKS or M1 Garand for examples. These are both excellent rifles but have integral magazines of 10 and 8 rounds, although the SKS can utilize higher capacity duck bill magazines with no modifications simply by removing the magazine

well and spring from the rifle. I have found the Tapco 20 round magazines to be the most reliable for the SKS.

It is my personal opinion (and I strongly stick to my guns, pun intended) that one of the rifles listed below should be your first survival gun, no doubt about it.

Here are my top recommendations...



The AR-15

The original AR-15 was designed by Armalite (a small arms engineering company from the 50s) but, in the 1960s, they sold their design to Colt. The AR-15 is widely used by the military and civilians alike and for good reason.

Here's a quick list to see why I recommend that, if you're going try out a gun, the first one you should hold in your hands should be this one.

Pros:

- It is lightweight
- It is accurate
- User friendly
- Utilizes a small center fire caliber which results in low recoil (and also makes it easy for you to stockpile it in small places and to carry an ample supply with you)
- Quick change upper receiver. You can easily change to one of several calibers available for the AR platform, or change the barrel lengths or styles simply by changing the upper receiver. For example, you can have a scoped 6.5 upper for hunting and then when you get home, clean the rifle and swap to a 5.56 upper set up more for combat style. You can have a dozen different uppers and they all work with the same lower. There are even 5.56 belt feed uppers and .50 BMG uppers available! Just think, you can have a slide fire stock with a belt fed upper and it will be like having a S.A.W, then in less than 5 minutes change the upper and stock and have a .50 BMG super long range sniper rifle. The possibilities are endless really.

The AR platform also allows for a wide range of optics, bi-pods and other tactical accessories to be mounted as it utilizes the Picatinny rail system (which is a standard mounting platform for these accessories).

Last but not least, the AR platform has proven its combat effectiveness for over 50 years around the world. For those reasons I recommend you try it and I'm confident it's going to be your first survival gun.

We looked at the pros of the AR 15 platform rifle, so it's only fair that we explore the cons as well.

It is prone to malfunction if it is dirty. For a combat rifle it actually succumbs to the effects of mud, sand, water and even snow fairly quickly. Suffering failure to feed and failure to eject, rendering it useless at the worst time.

- Accessories can be a little pricey
- It is high maintenance (compared with the other options I'm about to show you)
- The gas impingement system introduces carbon, unburned propellant, and molten metal particles into the receiver. This is often the cause of malfunctions such as the bolt failing to go fully into battery. This is why the forward assist was invented, rather than fixing the cause they provided a "fix" to the effect. This is all around poor designing.
- Another con is that it is less lethal because the bullet being small and light delivers less kinetic energy to the target.

Price: Median price is around \$1000. A basic model can be as low as \$500 while a top of the line model can run a couple of thousand dollars fully accessorized.

Ammo used: The standard caliber for the AR 15 platform rifle is 5.56 / .223, but there are literally 100 other calibers available ranging from the smallest, .17 Mach 2, all the way up to the largest feedable cartridge 10mm SOCOM.

This list of calibers includes the most common alternative calibers for the AR 15 rifle; 7.62x39, 9mm, 6.5 Grendel, and .50 Beowulf.

The AR 15 platform, as mentioned earlier, can even be used to fire large calibers like the .50 BMG, but in these calibers the lower receiver is merely used as the trigger group and the upper is a single shot, handfed, bolt action.

Weight: The standard rifle weight can run from as little as 6 pounds to as much as 10 pounds, depending on the caliber, barrel style, and accessories attached.

One last thing about the AR-15, although its name is "branded" by Colt, you can find this gun under different names produced by other companies such as Bushmaster, Rock River Arms, Ruger and so on. The differences are unseen at distance but when you get to the internal parts, like the hammer

and trigger, you will find that there are different pin sizes in the Colt rifles compared to ALL the other brands, which are all the same and therefore interchangeable. So for that reason I would suggest to NOT buy the colt brand as that makes it harder to find replacement parts. Look for rifles marked “mil spec”.



The AK 47

The AK 47 is an excellent choice for a survival weapon and there are several reasons why you should get one (pros):

- It has lower tolerances. This makes it withstand dirt better than the AR
- It works under the worst conditions, it laughs at dirt, sand, mud, and snow, UNLIKE the AR-15 we previously talked about.
- Requires very little maintenance (again, unlike the AR-15). In a combat situation when there is no time for a real cleaning you can fire the AK 47 for thousands upon thousands of rounds and never clean it and it will still

run. Cleaning the rifle can be as simple as peeing down the barrel and in the receiver and then you will be good to go. (seriously, the ammonia in the pee removes the salts from the corrosive military surplus ammunition)

- Ammo is cheap and generally easy to find
- Heavier, harder hitting round. Penetrates hard targets better than the 5.56/.223 and with soft point or hollow point projectiles is a devastating round on deer and other medium game.

Here are the trade-offs (cons):

- Mediocre accuracy in the typical AK rifle, however the higher quality rifles like the Arsenal brand are very accurate, but pricey, often up to \$2000
- It's a heavier base rifle than the AR 15 because it is made from steel and wood rather than aluminum and plastic but often by the time you finish dressing up your AR they weigh in about the same
- More recoil (one of the reasons the accuracy is "bad" for people that don't know how to shoot, if you know how to shoot then the recoil is a moot point)

Price: In the past an AK could be gotten rather cheaply, but today the prices run about the same as the AR. \$500 for a lower end and up to a couple thousand for a high quality. The biggest difference is that in a cheap AK you don't get a very accurate rifle, although it will still be a hardy weapon.

But when you get into the higher end rifles, like an SLR 95, they will be very accurate and well made. The SLR rifles have Steyr manufactured hammer forged barrels, very high quality.

Ammo: The standard caliber for the AK 47 is 7.62x39, but the AK 74 fires the 5.45x39 which was Russias attempt at copying the NATO 5.56 cartridge of the AR15.



The M1 Carbine

This is a great light weight, medium caliber semi-automatic rifle that is accurate and reliable. It's a good close range weapon but suffers at distance due to the light projectile and low powered cartridge.

It has been compared to the .38 special revolver cartridge but is actually a slightly smaller caliber. It can serve well for hunting purposes, but due to the low power your shots would have to be very accurate on medium game like deer.

Pros:

- Lightweight
- Low recoil
- Has a detachable magazine
- Semi-automatic (of course)
- Small
- Good close and mid-range accuracy

Cons:

- Not effective at long range
- Getting more and more expensive to purchase
- Ammo is expensive (around \$500 for 1000 rounds) and has a low stopping power

Ammo: .30-caliber rounds

Although the original M1 Carbine is harder to get these days, the AOM130, a modern take of the M1, if you will, can be found at Auto Ordnance for less than one grand. Battlefield complaints from soldiers who used the M1 carbine were that it took several shots to stop an attacker.



The Ruger 10/22

The Ruger 10/22 is probably the best rifle to use if you're a novice or if you're teaching your children how to defend themselves. The absence of any

real recoil makes it a comfortable weapon to fire for everyone both young and old. .22 LR ammo is fairly inexpensive so you can spend long days at the range practicing for without worrying about the expense.

Pros:

- Very good low range precision
- No perceivable recoil
- Really cheap (less than 300 bucks)
- Inexpensive ammo
- Inexpensive magazines
- Lightweight (7 pounds)
- Compact (only 37 inches in length)
- Tons of accessories
- Plentiful replacement parts

Cons:

- The scope mount screws can be easily stripped (due to an aluminum receiver)
- The triggers are a little rough
- The bolt catch can be tricky for beginners
- Small caliber has limited uses

Ammo: .22 LR

Marlin 1895 GS

If you want a rifle with sheer stopping power, the Marlin 1895 GS has it. Although it isn't a semi-auto rifle, it is still great for hunting as well as stopping attackers. It looks really nice, too, because of its walnut and stainless steel construction.

Pros:

- Accuracy
- Powerful round
- Resistant to corrosion (because it is made of walnut and stainless steel)
- Easy to maintain
- Durable
- The price is reasonable, it starts at \$650

Cons:

- It's rather heavy
- Low round capacity
- Reloading is slow
- Ammo may be hard to find

Ammo: .45-70 Government

Henry Arms AR-7

The last choice for a rifle is the AR-7; it is a lightweight, small, and accurate survival rifle. You can use it for both defending yourself from human attackers as well as hunting small game. It's a great gun to conceal as it takes about 16.5 inches in length when broken down.

It breaks down and fits into its own stock so you can easily put it in your car or your bug-out bag as a back-up (and the stock is water tight and floats).

Pros:

Lightweight at 3.5pounds;

Cheap (you can get one for less than 300 bucks)

Cons:

Poor accuracy

The barrel is thin

You can't place it on a bipod

It doesn't have a sling so you can carry it on your shoulder

Ammo: .22 LR (it has 2 magazines of 8 rounds each)

One thing that I must make clear is that all these selections are merely options to choose from, there are many more available. Whatever weapon you choose is entirely up to you. Make your decision carefully and take into consideration all of the aspects of your particular situation and try to find the weapon that best suits your needs.

Shotguns

The second category of guns that you should look into to when choosing your survival weapon is shotguns. If you're wondering why and when you should get a shotgun instead of a rifle, the answer's in the details.

Rifles and handguns (we're going to talk about handguns a little later) have a unique difference to shotguns: they have **rifled barrels**, causing the bullets to spin while they're going out of the barrel and, thus, to travel more accurately.

Rifles have better accuracy but shotguns are better in close combat because the shot shell can cause damage to an entire area that it hits, potentially injuring several opponents with one shot.

The other big benefit is that shotguns are cheaper than most rifles. They are very easy to maintain and, if you live in an urban or suburban area you should definitely check them out. They will be able to inflict more damage should you ever face an angry mob.

The last thing I want you to look for when selecting a shotgun is the gauge. A 20 gauge is good if this is your first weapon or you are concerned about the heavy recoil of the 12 gauge, but a 12 gauge is better because it is a larger shell and the ammunition is more abundant.

The Mossberg 590 Mariner

I put this one first because it's great for both protection and wilderness hunting. It's a tactical shotgun, meaning it holds 9 shells instead of 6 or 8.

You can even change the original grip with a pistol grip to be used in smaller spaces. In fact there are many accessory options available for this gun.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The Mossberg 590 Mariner passes all military requirements (MilSpec 3443) for chemical resistance, drop tests, endurance and so on. In addition:

- Easy to maintain
- Easy to use
- Supports a lot of accessories (flashlight mounts with sling attachments, carriers etc.)

Cons:

- Expensive
- Heavy (at 7 pounds)
- Long (which makes it hard to just pack and take with you)



Remington 870

If you choose a Remington 870, one thing is clear: you will find plenty of parts to replace or upgrade this shotgun. You can even mount an extension tube so it can hold up to 7 shells if you want to.

Pros:

- Extremely accurate;
- Very reliable;
- Durable (rust-resistant);
- Wider range of parts for upgrade.

Cons:

- It's only a 5-shell shotgun
- The slide release is forward of the trigger, making it a little uncomfortable to reach it.

Price: starting from \$400.

The Winchester Super X Pump Defender

This is a great shot-gun and comes at a good price. It also has a shorter barrel, it's lightweight and very accurate. The short barrel, of course, makes it easy to handle in small places. Short barreled shotguns are intended to be self defense/combat weapons vs. the longer barreled hunting shotguns.

Here's a full list of pros:

- It's easy to disassemble it

- Lightweight
- Easy to use
- Compact
- Durable
- Easy to maintain

The only two cons of this shotgun are that it doesn't have a pistol grip available and that it has problems loading the 3" shells. That's about it.

The Benelli Nova Tactical Shotgun

This is a great shotgun as far as accuracy and reliability, but it does have one issue that could be a deal breaker. This is the fact that the capacity is only 4+1 rounds.

Other than that little nuisance, it's an accurate, easy to use, reliable, shotgun that is easy to maintain. You can get this shotgun in either 12 or 20 gauge.

Price: starting from \$400.

Handguns

Handguns are great for concealed carry because of their small size relative to rifles and shotguns. They are primarily used for self-defense, although many hunters use them because they are more challenging to hunt with.

Handguns are generally recommended as a backup for rifles and shotguns and not as primary weapons. Although if you never expect to have to shoot long ranges a handgun can serve you well as your primary weapon.

When you purchase a handgun for self defense or as a survival weapon you should opt for a center fire caliber over a rimfire cartridge. You should get at least a 9mm, but there are other suitable calibers, better even, it just depends on what you are comfortable with.

You won't have any problems finding most calibers of ammo currently, but there can be no way of determining ammo availability in a SHTF/TEOTWAWKI situation. Since the 9mm is a really popular caliber and a NATO round, it is practically everywhere right now, but it is a good idea to stockpile whatever caliber you choose for hard times.



Sig Sauer P226

The handgun I recommend the most is a higher priced weapon and it can set you back at least 800 bucks, but is well worth the price for its performance and reliability. This 9mm handgun shoots smooth, has no safety (meaning you can draw it and bring it to action quickly) and it is a very reliable performer and a well balanced weapon.

The downside of this weapon is that it's a little heavy and not suitable for those with small hands.

The Glock 36

If you do have hands on the smaller side and the previous gun just isn't for you, you should definitely try the Glock 36. With a 6 round magazine capacity and only weighing in at 27 ounces, it is a compact powerhouse. It is an accurate, light weight, reliable pistol, and it's priced a little less than the Sig Sauer, too, at around \$500.



The Glock 17

Glock 36's bigger brother, the model 17 weighs in at a hefty 32 ounces and boasts a magazine capacity of 17 rounds. The model 17 runs a little bit more by at least 50 dollars but it's worth it for the magazine capacity if nothing else. The accuracy is reasonable but it's not intended to be a long range weapon. The con is that the grip can be a little on the large side for some.

The When, Why and How

There are quite a lot of preppers out there who, whenever there's a conversation on a forum about guns and shooting, they don't hesitate to tell everyone that if someone trespasses their property, they'll shoot without hesitation.

Now, I don't know if they're serious, or whether they're just bragging, but my advice for you is to never lose your cool and know when you're entitled to shoot and when you aren't.

Even if you're in a post-SHTF situation, you still don't know who's going to accuse you of murder and who's going to judge you. In the event of Martial Law, you'll be judged by a military court, by people *without* experience in your specific state laws. And even if you're judged by a real jury, you could still have a tough time.

Gun Laws

You have to be aware of all the state and federal laws. You have to understand that gun laws haven't evolved due to the fact that people need to protect themselves. They changed because of the tragedies that involved them along time.

For example, the Gun Control Act of 1968 was a reaction to the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King and it banned gun purchases via postal mail.

The Firearm Owners' Protection Act (FOPA) of 1986 regulated the transportation of guns by their owners and to restrict gun access by drug gangs.

After the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 allowed background checks of all would be gun buyers.

I could go on and on with the laws but one thing is for sure: there are both state and federal laws that regulate firearms. You have to be aware of them particularly when you're travelling with your gun if you don't want to get in trouble.

A handgun can be loaded and concealed in your car in the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

A loaded handgun can be held in plain sight in your car in the following states: Alabama, Delaware, Kentucky, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee and Virginia.

A handgun should always be unloaded in your car in the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin.

Who Can't Carry a Gun?

You can't carry a gun if...

- You're a fugitive of justice
- You have been prosecuted for a crime that could land you a punishment of over one year in prison
- You have been convicted for domestic violence
- You've dropped your U.S. citizenship
- You're in the U.S. illegally

- You're in the U.S. under a non-immigrant VISA
- You have been discharged from the US Armed Forces
- You have a restraining order over a family member
- You are an addict of an unlawful substance
- You have been found insane or mentally incompetent

When You Can Use it

The laws vary from state to state about when you are authorized to use deadly force. If you choose to carry a firearm then you should take the responsibility to learn the laws in your state. In my state for example, I can use deadly force if someone enters or attempts to enter my home. If there is a porch with a roof on it I can even shoot them there, I don't have to wait for them to enter the house.

I can use deadly force if someone enters my vehicle. I can use deadly force if someone is trying to burn down my barn or garage. I can use deadly force in the defense of another whose life may be in danger. (I can shoot an armed robber or rapist that is attacking another person for example) In all of these examples the bad guy doesn't have to be armed.

This is all protected under a law called the castle doctrine. As for shooting someone in a public place that is attacking me, Kentucky has a stand your ground law as well, that means I can shoot them.

All of these uses of deadly force could land you in prison for a long time in many other states. This is why it is vitally important that you know and understand your states laws.

Zeroing a Rifle

Zeroing is a simple process through which you adjust your point of impact to match your point of aim. It generally takes a few shots to get the sights or scope zeroed. Understanding the trajectory of the projectile is vital.

You begin by aiming at a point on the target. If you don't want to ruin the center of your target, you can pick a point outside of it, such as one of the four points from the corners. You simply aim the crosshair on that particular point. You fire one shot and see where the round impacts.

Then you simply move the elevation and windage adjustments the prescribed number of clicks to bring the point of aim to the point of impact. Most scopes and sights is 1/4" per click. For example, if your shot landed 2 inches high and 2 inches left of your point of aim, then you adjust for the elevation to move up 8 clicks and the for the windage to move left 8 clicks.

Usually if you are adjusting a scope up is up and left is left, etc. but on iron sights the sights are moved in the opposite direction in which you wish to move the point of aim. In other words, if your round hit high, you move the elevation, or rear sight down, if you hit left, you move the windage, or rear sight right. Generally the front sight is stationary with iron sights and you adjust only the rear sight.

It is not unusual to take several shots and keep adjusting until you get everything dead on. Keep in mind however, that a scope or sight ZEROED at say 50 yards, will then hit high or low at other distances. This is why you must learn the trajectory of your projectile so that you can compensate for the bullet drop. Usually you zero the gun for the mid range of the projectile, but again, that depends on the round.

How to Clean Your Gun

Cleaning a gun is not about making it nice and shiny so you can brag with it to your neighbor. It's about removing all the debris, gunpowder and metals that can build up even into the smallest places inside a gun and thus affect its performance and accuracy.

The accumulated debris can not only cause gun malfunction but could also cause it to fire unexpectedly!

An excessively dirty firearm can be dangerous; some models can experience a condition known as a *slamfire*. This is a condition in which the firing pin becomes stuck in the forward position causing the round to discharge as soon as the bolt closes into battery.

When this condition occurs the weapon can fire uncontrollably until the magazine is empty. This usually happens most often to military surplus type semiautomatic firearms that don't have a floating firing pin. This condition can be addressed by replacing the factory firing pin with a replacement pin that has a return spring.

Normally you should have detailed instructions on how to clean your firearm when you purchased it new. If you do not know how to break down your firearm you can usually look up the book or an instructional video online.

When do you need to clean your firearm? Well, generally you want to clean your weapon any time you fire it. You should also periodically clean and inspect any firearms that are in long term storage.

If you don't use them often (only for target practice every once in a while), I recommend you do it right after you finish your session. It doesn't take long and it's the only way that I know of to actually prolong your weapon's lifespan. The entire process that I'll show you below should not take you more than 30 minutes, maybe a little longer the first time.



Ideally, you need a gun cleaning kit. This should include gun oil, cleaning solvent, patches, a patch holder, a cleaning rod, brushes, swabs, slotted ends and a flashlight. Hoppe's Universal Gun Cleaning Accessory Kit that you can get on Amazon is decent. You can also buy a kit at or any of the sporting goods stores or big box department stores.

You should work in a ventilated area as the solvent fumes and the lubricant are toxic if inhaled. Make sure you put a newspaper or something on the table. Better yet, put up a plastic bag underneath the papers. Now that you have everything you need, you first have to unload the gun and clear it. Always double check the chamber to make sure it is not loaded.

Next, you need to disassemble the gun according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you're not sure about this, look up online for instructions for your firearm make and model. If you have a revolver or a shotgun, you generally don't need to disassemble anything.

First, swab the bore with a bore brush on the cleaning rod. After several strokes, then use solvent soaked cotton patches of the correct caliber. Do

this several times from the back of the bore if that's possible and apply more solvent when needed.

If your gun has chambers, clean those out in the same manner. Push a patch with solvent until it exits on the other end. Make sure you don't pull the patch back up, just remove it. Otherwise, it will just cause the gunk to go back inside the gun. You should alternate the usage of bore brush and the patches thoroughly and keep running cotton patches until one of them comes out clean.

After the bore is thoroughly cleaned it's time to clean the action. Put some solvent on the gun brush and simply brush all the parts of the action. Wipe them with a clean, dry cloth. Lubricate the moving parts of the action but make sure you don't apply too much of it. Finally, swab the bore with a cloth soaked in gun oil.

The final step is to wipe the outside of the gun with gun oil. It will not only remove the last of the remaining debris but will also add a nice shine to your gun.

Last but not least, always store your gun in a cool, dry place.

Beyond Guns

Guns are just the beginning. If you want to be fully protected, you have to think about things such as body armor, battle belts and so on. I want to take a moment to talk to you about each of these.

Bulletproof Vests

One item that can come in very handy if you think you will find yourself being shot at is a bulletproof vest. If you are working on a budget, buy the vest before you buy a second gun. A second gun won't do much to protect you when bullets start flying in your direction. The vest can cover the vitals of your front as well as your back.

Choosing the right vest is all about compromise. You can either get one that's bulky, heavy, expensive and can protect better against different types of ammo or you can get one that's slimmer, lighter and easier to wear but offers less protection.

For example, if you buy a level II vest it might protect you from some handgun calibers, but a rifle will punch right through it. A vest that stops rifle rounds is usually pretty heavy and cumbersome, and it doesn't do you any good if you aren't wearing it. Keep in mind also that although a vest will protect your vital organs, it doesn't make you impervious to gunfire, so good cover is always advisable.

Battle Belts

Battle belts are great not because you can stash extra ammo, magazines and handguns but also because you can roll them easy and store them in very little space. Consider stockpiling one for each member of your family that has a gun and make sure you all get used to them.

The last thing you want when angry mobs are shooting at you would be to waste precious seconds going through each of the pockets, trying to find the right ammo.