

HOME DEFENSE HANDGUNS CHEAT SHEET

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Everyone has different ideas about the best firearm for home defense. Ask ten gun owners and you'll get eleven answers. This is a controversial topic and people are very passionate about it. In the end, whatever works for you is fine. All that really matters is that you have a dependable firearm in a dependable caliber. That said, here are Modern Combat and Survival's recommendations for choosing and using home defense guns.

WHAT WILL YOU USE YOUR HANDGUN TO DO?

You really have to match the weapon to what you're going to use it to do.

- Will you be concealing it? It has to be comfortable and small enough to hide.
- Will other family members use it? They have to be able to handle it.

YOU (PROBABLY) WON'T HIT YOUR TARGET

Under the adrenaline rush of a real encounter, your shots will often miss the target.

- Remember, real self-defense isn't shooting static targets at the range.
- Your target may be moving... and may be shooting back at you.

GO WITH A FULL-SIZE WEAPON

A full-sized handgun is easier to use and offers more firepower than a pocket-sized gun.

- A Glock 17 or Glock 19 is a great choice for carry and concealment.
- Ultra-combat guns limit your accuracy, stopping power, and number of rounds.

CHOOSE NINE MILLIMETER (OR NOT)

The ratio of stopping power to number of rounds you can carry make 9mm a great choice for home-defense.

- 9mm offers relatively light recoil but decent stopping power.
- 9mm offers good velocity to allow for hollow point expansion.

LOAD HOLLOW POINTS

You definitely want to use hollow point rounds for self-defense.

- Jacketed "ball" ammo has a greater chance of traveling through the target (overpenetration).
- Hollow points expand, doing more damage, and have a greater chance of staying in the target, which means less danger to others inside (and outside) your home.

CHOOSE A GUN WITH AN INTEGRATED SAFETY

Under stress, dealing with a manual safety means adding a layer of fine motor control you don't need or want to deal with.

- The Glock is a good example of a semi-auto handgun with an integrated safety.
- When adrenalized, you want to be able to just point and shoot.

HOW DOES THE GUN FEEL IN YOUR HAND?

To serve you well, a handgun must be comfortable in your grip.

- A great gun that doesn't "feel right" will be one you don't carry.
- A gun that doesn't fit you will not be as accurate as one that does.

REVOLVERS AN OPTION?

Revolvers aren't ideal, but a good choice for those new to guns or "unwilling" spouses.

- Revolvers are simple and easy to use, but offer limited firepower.
- The single-action trigger pull of a cocked revolver allows for more accurate shots.

DON'T RELY ON GUN STORE ADVICE

Relying on the advice of gun store clerks will probably leave you disappointed.

- Gun stores can be intimidating to novice shooters.
- Choose a lineup of dependable brands and just see how they "feel" in your hand.
- Make a list of the guns that feel right. Don't buy. Just make the list, then...

TRY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF DIFFERENT GUNS

When selecting a firearm, try out many different models to see what feels good.

- Using your short list of "feel good" guns, find a range that will let you rent them to shoot.
- Test your natural accuracy with each until you find a good "base gun" to buy.

YOU NEED SOME SORT OF LIGHT

Many home defense scenarios take place in low light. You need to identify your targets.

- A separate light is more versatile and allows you to shine light without pointing the gun, but you may also choose a rail-mounted light.

DON'T SETTLE FOR FACTORY SIGHTS

The factory sights on most guns are rudimentary at best. Upgrade for better visibility.

- High-visibility sights can make a big difference under stress.
- I recommend the [AmeriGlo ProGlo](#) for low-light shooting.

REMEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF GUNFIGHTING: HAVE A GUN

Famed self-defense expert Jeff Cooper said that this is your first step.

- A full-sized gun you don't carry is useless compared to the pocket gun you do.
- For home defense, your handgun is the weapon you use to fight to a better weapon.

Prepare. Train. Survive.