



# Spartan Firearms Training Group, LLC

## Tip of the Day—July 22, 2025

### 🌟 Do Your Homework Before Buying Your First or Next Handgun 🌟

(Note: Making a decision about purchasing your first or next gun is a very personalized decision. Ideally, you'll have the opportunity to handle the gun, fire it, ensure it fits your hand, determine if you can manage the recoil, and assess whether you can comfortably carry it (if that's important to you).

We're going to highlight several of the most popular options here. We're not recommending these options; we're offering them as examples to help you make an informed decision about your gun purchase.

There are pros and cons to each of the handguns described below. In fact, there are entire communities that are dedicated to discussing the merits and drawbacks of each platform. We also guarantee you that you will not have any shortage of opinions about the "best" gun to buy.

The absolute best advice that we can offer is to go somewhere where you'll have the opportunity to shoot the gun you're interested in purchasing, then make your purchasing decision.

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## Purchasing Advice

### 🔍 1. Define Your Purpose

👉 Is it for **home defense**, **concealed carry**, **range shooting**, or **all of the above**?

Your purpose determines everything: size, caliber, capacity, whether you carry open or concealed.

## 2. Carrying in Public

- If your purpose is to carry a firearm concealed or openly, you should choose one that allows you to do so comfortably and effectively.

## 3. Stick to a Common Caliber

- **9mm** – Ideal for beginners: low recoil, affordable, widely available. 9 mm is a popular choice.
- Avoid .40, .45, or magnums unless you're experienced.

## 4. Choose a Trusted Brand

Go with proven names for reliability and support:

**Glock, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Walther, CZ, Ruger, Springfield Armory, H&K**

## 5. Try Before You Buy

What looks good online might feel terrible in your hands.

Visit a range that rents guns. Pay attention to:

- Grip feel
- Trigger press
- Recoil control
- Ease of use

## 6. Know the Key Features

- **Size** – Full-size for home; compact/subcompact for carry
- **Capacity** – 10–17 rounds is standard for 9mm
- **Weight** – Heavier guns absorb recoil better
- **Manual Safety?** – Personal preference

## 7. Skip the Gimmicks

Don't fall for "tactical" marketing. Focus on **simplicity, function, reliability, and how it fits your hand.**

## 8. Prioritize Training

Buying a gun isn't the end—it's the beginning.

- Take a safety course
- Learn the **rules of gun safety**
- Practice—dry fire and live fire

## 9. Budget Smart

Save some of your budget for:

- Ammo

- Holster
- Secure storage
- Training


#### 10. Buy New (If You Can)

Used guns can be great, but for your first, go new—unless buying from someone you *really* trust.

#### 11. Final Thought: Fit Over Hype

The best handgun is the one **you shoot well, handle safely, and trust**. Don't let someone talk you into a poor fit because it looks "cool."

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 **Beginner-Friendly Options** (Note: You cannot legally purchase a magazine holding more than 10 rounds in Maryland, and possibly other states. If you purchase a gun that has magazines holding 15 or more rounds, the dealer cannot legally let you have them. They would need to replace the magazines with lower capacity magazines or install permanent magazine limiters.)

##### **Glock 19 (Gen 5 or 4)**

- 9mm, 15+1
- Legendary reliability, easy to maintain
- Great for carry, home defense, and range

##### **S&W M&P 9 M2.0 Compact**

- 9mm, 15+1
- Comfortable grip, low recoil
- Awesome Glock alternative

##### **Sig Sauer P320 Compact**

- 9mm, 15+1
- Modular design, military-tested
- Very customizable

##### **Walther PDP (Compact or Full)**

- 9mm, 15+1 or 18+1
- Excellent trigger, ergonomic grip
- Perfect for home and range

✅ **Ruger Security-9**

- 9mm, 15+1
  - Budget-friendly, reliable
  - Great for first-time buyers on a budget
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❌ **Avoid These—For Now:**

- Tiny .380s or .22s — poor for learning or defense
  - .40 S&W or .45 ACP — heavy recoil
  - Revolvers — only if you want to master a totally different platform
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