

Consumer How to CHOOSE A HANDGUN

Deciding to purchase a handgun is a personal choice and a huge responsibility.

When it's time to make that decision, you want to make sure you will get the best quality and the right type of gun for you.

Whether you are new to the firearms market or an experienced collector, choosing a handgun takes consideration and time.

Talking to other merchants and gun owners will give you up-to-date information about the latest models. You might also get some good insights into brands and models.

Being informed is essential for responsible gun ownership.

SIZE AND CALIBER

When looking for a handgun to fit your technical and physical needs, it is a good idea to visit a gun shop. Look for a store that allows you to try the gun at a range before buying.

Size is going to be a big factor. A large framed pistol is fine if you aren't planning on carrying the gun on your body. These weapons hold more ammunition in the magazine. You will probably be able to manage the recoil better.

Smaller pistols are excellent choices for carrying concealed. It might have stronger recoil because it is a lighter weight. Most concealed carry guns are specifically designed to use at close range and remain hidden when not in use.

Larger caliber weapons will create more damage on your target. Smaller calibers are excellent choices for novices.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Along with size and caliber, there are other things to keep in mind.

There are two types of handguns: the automatic and the revolver. Automatics are more modern and usually come in smaller calibers, known as "auto calibers." Since they are typically clip-fed, automatics are complicated. They can be slightly more difficult to clean and operate, but they are fast to fire and easy to reload.

On the other hand, revolvers are simpler and more traditional. They have been around a lot longer. There are a wider range of calibers and they are easier to clean, but the firing speed and reload time is significantly reduced. Revolvers are great options for beginners, though some automatics are just as good.

Point-and-shoot accuracy is more important than sighted accuracy in an emergency situation. In self-defense situations, you're usually firing fast and instinctively. So it is good to have a gun that reflects your firing style.

WARNINGS

You should be able to operate your weapon easily. Learn how to switch the safety on and off before you attempt to use it. You should also know how to load and fire the gun.

Spend plenty of time with your weapon at a firing range. Become familiar with its limitations. Take classes that match your level of experience.

Responsible gun ownership starts with gun safety. Never leave your pistol where children can get to it. Handle your weapon in a manner that is safe for you and those around you. Always treat it as though it is loaded, and never point it at anyone you don't intend to shoot.

A knowledgeable gun shop can answer all your questions. Find a shop in your area where employees are passionate about educating the public.

