

Owning a firearm in Canada

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Maneuvering through the challenges of the past few years has meant an exploration of issues, ideas, and technologies that would likely not have occurred otherwise. It seems that challenges are good motivators.

This series of e-resources consists of a gathering of 'tips & tricks' learned along the way. There will be revisions and additions to this series as new information and challenges present themselves.

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Included in the 'Tips & Tricks' series ...

- Nebulized hydrogen peroxide
- Emergency and disaster-proofing gear: Canadian sources
- Owning a gun in Canada
- Chlorine Dioxide Solution (CDS)
- Survival tips – urban v rural situations

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Guns are legal in Canada but are controlled by [strict gun laws](#), particularly the Canadian [Criminal Code](#) and the [Firearms Act](#) (1995) plus [related regulations](#).

'First-time' Canadians over 18 years of age must pass the [Canadian Firearms Safety Course](#) before applying for a '[Possession and Acquisitions](#)' (PAL) licence. There are two types of PAL's – one for non-restricted firearms and the other for restricted. Licences must be renewed every five years. The Safety Course involves in-class instruction plus a written and practical test. Restricted or prohibited firearms must be registered.

Firearms in Canada fall into three different classes:

- **Non-restricted**: any rifle/shotgun that is not restricted or prohibited
- **Restricted**: handguns that are not prohibited; a barrel less than 470mm in length; a semi-automatic, plus other conditions
- **Prohibited**: hand guns with barrels less than 105mm in length, plus other conditions

There are also very specific 'permitted purposes' for acquiring or possessing a restricted firearm:

- Target practice or target shooting competitions
- As part of a collection
- In connection with one's lawful profession/occupation or to protect life

For general information on firearms (licencing, registration, buying and selling, safety training, forms and reports, contacting the Firearms Program) –

- [Firearms](#). Royal Canadian Mounted Police

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General reference materials

[Answers To Common Questions about Firearms in Canada](#). Howtogetagun.ca

[How to Buy a Gun in Canada](#): 12 steps with pictures. wikiHow. Updated April 12, 2023.

[Can you own firearms in Canada?](#) The Gun Zone. November 25, 2023.

[Explainer: Are guns illegal in Canada? Key questions answered](#). Nia Williams. Reuters. May 31, 2022.

[Canada's gun-control law a step in right direction, says Polytechnique massacre survivor](#). Swidda Rassy. Montreal City News. Updated January 2, 2024.

Resource links

- [Canadian Firearms Program](#) (RCMP)
- [Canadian Shooting Sports Association](#)
- [Firearms Law Canada](#)
- [Firearms Safety Education Service of Ontario](#)
- (The) [Gun Blog Canada](#)
- [Gun Control in Canada](#) (The Canadian Encyclopedia). Updated December 15, 202
- [National Firearms Association](#) (Canada)
- [Ottawa Firearms Safety Education & Training](#)