

RAM Defense LLC

Concealed Carry Guns Recommendations

This list is not comprehensive but provides a good reference for concealed carry sub-compact and micro-compact handguns we would recommend.

Remember the rules of choosing the right gun:

1. What do you want or need it for?
2. Pick a gun you'll actually use for that purpose.
3. Get the most effective ammunition and/or caliber you can shoot.

NOTE: In the state of Minnesota, there is an unconstitutional hoop you have to jump through before buying a pistol: You have to get permission from the county sheriff to be able to buy pistols. This requirement can be met by applying for a "Permit to Purchase" which is free and good for one year, or take a class for and acquire a "Permit to Carry" which costs money but is good for five years. Recently, a valid MN Permit to Carry can negate the need to get a gun purchase background check.

RAM Defense LLC offers great values and trainings. More info can be viewed at www.ramdefense.com.

TIP: YouTube, gun reviews on websites, manufacturers' websites, retailers' inventory on hand, friends, family, local experts and gun shows all can help in the decision process. Don't forget that besides the research, actually holding the gun and operating the action are enormously helpful when choosing.

- **Kel-Tec P380**
 - Small, light and affordable
 - Cost: \$278+.



- **Smith and Wesson Bodyguard**
 - .380.



- **Smith and Wesson M&P Shield**

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- Three dot sights.
 - Somewhat customizable more than Walther PPS.
 - Button magazine release.
- Pros:
 - Shoots well.
 - Smooth/non-aggressive texturing.
 - Good trigger.
 - Not as good as the Walther PPS.
 - But, it is customizable with parts from Apex.
- Cons:
 - Small manual safety that can get engaged.
- Cost: \$350-\$400.



- **Ruger LCR**

- Very trustworthy, easy to deploy.
- Hammerless.
 - No catching when pulling.
- Night sight on front.
- Cost: \$330+.



- **Sig Sauer 938**

- 9mm.
- Night sights.
- 1911 style.



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- **Sig Sauer 238**
 - .380.
 - Night sights.
 - 1911 style.



- **Kel-Tec PF9**



- **Ruger LCP or better yet LCP2**
 - Similar to Kel-Tec P380 but includes a small slide stop.
 - Commonly sold with laser or flashlight accessory.
 - Cost: \$300-400 depending on accessories.



- **Ruger SR9c**



- **Kahr PM9**

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- **Kahr CW9**
 - Budget-minded decent gun.
 - Almost same size as M&P Shield.
 - Easy, smooth, short none stacking 6 pound trigger pull great for smaller hands/fingers.
 - But, on the range anyone with larger hands (specifically longer fingers) will have a harder time pulling the trigger because of pronounced trigger reach.



- **Springfield Armory XDS**
 - 9mm or .45.
 - Pros:
 - Very good performer for so compact (i.e. short) a gun.
 - Cons:
 - Very thick/wide.
 - Had a recall of an extremely rare issue.
 - More info on that here: <http://www.springfieldrecall.com/Recall%20FAQ.asp>
 - Cost: \$450+.

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- **Walther CCP 9**
 - Smaller, concealable while Walther ergonomics.
 - 9mm.
 - Has a manual safety.
 - Arguably either good or bad.
 - Slide lock is very flat/flush.
 - Arguably either good or bad.
 - Pros:
 - Won award by NRA: <http://www.waltherarms.com/walther-ccp-awarded-2016-golden-bullseye/>.
 - Good shooter.
 - Cons:
 - Recall that can be fixed: <http://www.waltherarms.com/walther-resources/ccp-recall/>.
 - Cost: \$368 - \$450.



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- **Walther PPS**
 - Chamber/round indicator.
 - Paddle type magazine release on trigger guard.
 - Three dot sights.
 - Somewhat customizable (including P99 sights) but not as much as M&P Shield.
 - Pros:
 - No manual safety.
 - Shoots well.
 - Good trigger.
 - Slightly better than the M&P Shield.
 - Cons:

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- Remove backstrap and it won't fire.
 - Could come off inadvertently.
- Aggressive texturing on backstrap.
- Gap between grip and magazine that pinches some shooters during recoil.
- Cost: \$500-\$600.



- **Springfield Armory EMP**

- 9mm or .40.
- Nearly perfect concession between size and function.
- Pros:
 - Outstanding quality.
 - Outstanding accuracy.
 - Outstanding shootability.
 - Night sights.
- Cons:
 - 1911 style single action first, e.g. must cock hammer to fire.
 - Grip safety.
 - Manual safety.
- Cost: about \$1,000.



- **Charter Arms Pathfinder**

- .22LR.
- If you choose to use a .22LR for personal defense, it is better to use a revolver.
 - .22LR rimfire ammo and/or the auto-loader (i.e. semi-automatic) pistols that shoot them are prone to malfunction.
- Pros:
 - .22LR revolver.

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- Mostly stainless steel.
- Look, feel and weight of higher caliber revolver.
 - Aids in shooting.
- Very dependable.
- Good grip.
- 6-shot.
- Hammer.
 - Can cock, which moves the trigger to a great reset point for easy shooting.
 - Place for a holster strap to go.
- Cons:
 - Partly plastic/polymer.
 - Hammer.
 - Can catch on clothing/apparel when drawing.
- Cost: about \$350.



- **Glock 43**

- Extremely accurate.
- 9mm.
- Glock dependability.
- Cost: \$450+.



- **Sig Sauer P365**

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- Read a great review here: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/handguns/first-look-sig-sauer-p365/>

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- \$499 - \$599.



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- Honorable mention: Diamondback DB9.
 - Pros:
 - Micro-compact that is comfortable.
 - Durability with less felt recoil.
 - Cost: \$250+



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DEFENSIVE AMMO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consider going to YouTube and watching ballistic gelatin tests for the ammo + gun to find most effective pairing.

- **Federal HST**
 - Excellent expansion and penetration
 - Very reliable
- **Federal Hydra-Shock**
 - Has a central peg in the hollow point that keeps it from plugging
 - Nickel plated
 - Anti corrosion and smoother load
- **Hornady Critical Defense**
 - Has a ballistic tip in the hollow point that keeps it from plugging
 - Nickel plated
 - Anti corrosion and smoother load
- **Winchester PDX**
 - Bonded bullet that won't come apart
 - Fans out looking like a ninja throwing star that shreds
- **Remington Golden Saber**
 - Uses casing brass to jacket the bullet
 - Has enormous cavity in the bullet that's like a cookie cutter and creates gruesome wound cavity
- **Speer Gold Dot**
 - Very reliable
 - Trusted by many law enforcement agencies