



Weapons and the law

10 facts

1 Defining 'weapons'

The following are classified as weapons under the law: firearms, air and CO2 guns, imitation weapons, blank and air-soft guns, as well as electric shock devices and all other devices intended to injure or kill people. The classification also extends to certain knives, daggers and spray products.

The police prosecute infringements of the Weapons Act as criminal offences. Offenders are sentenced by the justice system.



2 Banned weapons

Lawmakers ban certain weapons and objects used exclusively to injure or kill people.

No weapons carry permits are issued for banned weapons.

- 1 Knuckleduster 2 Taser 3 Butterfly knife 4 Nunchuk 5 Baton
6 Automatic firearm

3 Acquisition

Anyone over the age of 18 is able to buy weapons. Their purchase is governed by law and divided into three categories:

- Subject to notification (contract required)
- Requiring a licence (weapons acquisition permit)
- Banned weapons (cantonal exceptional licence)

Gifts and inheritances are also treated as acquisitions.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Eidgenössisches Justiz- und Polizeidepartement Eidgenössisches Justiz- und Polizeidepartement
Bundesamt für Polizei fedpol
Hauptabteilung Dienste
Abteilung Ausweise und besondere Aufgaben

Kanton: _____
Adresse: _____

Einzureichen bei
Kanton zuständige
Behörde

Gesuch um Erteilung eines Waffenerwerbsscheins zum Zwecke des Erwerbs einer oder mehrerer Waffe/n oder eines oder mehrerer wesentlichen/r Waffenbestandteile/e (Art. 8 ff WG und Art. 15 ff WV)

NAME: _____ Lediger Name: _____
Vorname(n): _____ Geburtsdatum: _____
Heimatort: _____ Kanton: _____ Nationalität: _____
Adresse: _____ PLZ: _____
Telefon: _____ Wohnort: _____
E-Mail: _____

4 Carrying a weapon

As a rule, anyone wishing to carry a weapon in a public place requires an official weapons carry permit.

Having a weapon in a rucksack or in your car, without the necessary permit, is also deemed under the law to be carrying a weapon.



5 Transport

Weapons must be transferred directly from where they are stored to their authorised place of use. Authorised places of use include shooting ranges, hunting grounds or weapons shops.

During transport, the weapon must be unloaded and its magazine empty.

6 Storage

Weapons must be stored carefully and secured against access by unauthorised third parties. The police must be notified immediately if a weapon is lost.

A lockable gun cabinet is recommended for secure storage.





7 Dangerous objects

Tools, household items and sports equipment which might be used to threaten or injure people are classified not as weapons, but as dangerous objects.

Depending on the situation, even a frying pan or a rolling pin might be deemed a dangerous object.

- 1 Kitchen knife 2 Utility knife 3 Screwdriver 4 Baseball bat
5 Folding knife 6 Golf club

8 Carrying dangerous objects

Improperly carrying dangerous objects on your person or in a vehicle, whether openly or concealed, is forbidden.

Screwdrivers, hammers and knives belong at the workplace, not in pubs and clubs.





Not a weapon



Weapon

9 Toys

It must be absolutely clear from the transparency and appearance of toy pistols and other guns that they are not real firearms. A gun of any colour can still fire bullets.

The cap guns that were once popular children's toys are now reportable weapons.

10 Importing a weapon (bought online or abroad)

The weapons legislation of the country in question applies to weapons and ammunition bought abroad or from a foreign online shop. However, to import that weapon into Switzerland, the buyer requires a permit from the fedpol Central Weapons Office, which must be obtained in advance.

Don't assume that what is freely available abroad is also permitted in Switzerland. If in doubt, don't buy.



The Swiss Weapons Act

Further information on the Swiss Weapons Act is available from the Federal Office of Police, Central Weapons Office (www.fedpol.admin.ch).

Surrendering weapons

If you would like to surrender any weapons, weapons components, ammunition or associated accessories, please contact your local police station.



Swiss Crime Prevention

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This publication has been produced by kind permission of the City of Zurich Police on the basis of its 'Waffen und Gesetz – 10 Fakten' flyer.