



GUN STORE ETIQUETTE.

By Jerry "Buz" Sawyer

Exercising these tips of etiquette will ensure a smooth, safe and very enjoyable gun purchasing experience. I have heard a lot of horror stories what people do in a gun store; that's why a lot of gun store sales people have premature gray hair. Demonstrating complete firearm handling safety will earn you respect and extending some firearm courtesy only makes it better.

1. Plan on looking at ONE firearm at a time. While it may be convenient to compare 4 or 5 side by side, most stores allow only one firearm on the counter at a time. I'm sure if you ask the sales person you want to compare two firearms, he/she may agree to it. Some people think firearms are like watches, "Let me look at this one, that one right there, this one over here, oh and definitely that one!" If a jewelry store won't do it, gun stores definitely won't.
2. First and always, without exception, safety check a firearm as soon as you pick it up I don't care if the employee just showed you it's clear. As soon as you pick up a firearm ANYWHERE, the first thing you should be doing is a safety check. This practice does not change in a gun store.
3. Keep the muzzle pointing in a safe direction at all times. If you don't see a safe direction, ask the sales person.
3. Don't dry fire or 'slam' (release) the slide on a pistol without asking first. If you want to dry fire or release the slide with the slide release, check with the employee first. Dry-firing may be bad for the firing pin or striker pin in that particular firearm so it's always a good idea to ask. After all, it's their property until you buy it.
4. Learn what you can about the type of firearms you're interested in by doing some research online before you go to the gun store. Even the most knowledgeable sales person may not know all the details of all the guns they carry. It's a good idea to be informed ahead of time to make sure you know what you're looking for. The more you know the better the sales person can help you choose the right firearm for you.
5. Ensure you have your concealed carry license with you and if asked, don't be alarmed or indignant. It's a very common practice. FFLs have discretionary right to refuse to sell a firearm so let them do their job.
6. It's perfectly okay to negotiate price, if you're pricing dealer to dealer. If you find a firearm on www.cheapguns.com for \$395 and your local dealer is selling the same firearm for \$499, negotiating a few bucks off isn't unreasonable. However, asking them to match a price you saw on www.cheapguns.com may result in big fat "no." The online purchase will have other costs such as shipping & handling added to that "low" price. If you make a purchase online you're also going pay your local dealer two fees; one for the background check \$10 to \$15 and another for using his FFL which could be \$35. Also, online stores generally don't have the weighty overhead as your dealer. He needs to keep his doors open, so negotiate reasonably and you'll most likely get a price you can live with.
7. If you're trading in a gun, **BRING IT IN ITS CASE!** Don't go walking up to the counter with a firearm in your hands; now think about that for a moment. If you don't have the original case, ensure there is no ammunition in the firearm chamber(s) or magazine and put it in any latching case and let the employee take it out and safety check it. This seems like common sense to me, we're dealing with firearms here, not jeans you're returning at Wally World.
8. Don't talk or joke about anything illegal. I'm not even going to explain this. Just...just don't do it.

Good Luck and have an enjoyable firearm shopping experience!!