

There isn't a single "best" home-defense weapon for everyone. The best choice is the one you can **safely operate, control, and use accurately under stress**.

Many firearms trainers generally consider these factors:

Handgun

Pros

- Easy to store securely.
- Easy to maneuver in tight spaces.
- Can be kept with you if you need to move.

Cons

- Harder to shoot accurately than a long gun.
- Requires more training to become proficient.

Rifle (e.g., AR-pattern rifle)

Pros

- Easier to aim accurately.
- Better recoil control for many shooters.
- Compatible with lights and optics.

Cons

- Larger and less maneuverable indoors.
- Louder and often more expensive.

Shotgun

Pros

- Effective at close range.
- Reliable and simple designs are available.

Cons

- Significant recoil.
- Lower ammunition capacity.
- Requires aiming; the spread at indoor distances is usually much smaller than many people think.

Other Important Factors

Whatever you choose, consider:

- A quality weapon-mounted or handheld light.

- Secure storage that still allows quick access.
- Regular training and practice.
- Understanding your local laws regarding self-defense and firearm storage.

For many homeowners who are willing to train, a **modern rifle with a weapon light** or a **reliable handgun they practice with regularly** are commonly recommended options.

Given that you're involved with firearms and CCW topics through your 1789 Arms project, what home-defense firearm(s) do you currently own? I can help compare them for home-defense use.