

Prohibited Items Policy and List for Federal Courthouses in the Western District of Washington

Court Security Officers, the Federal Protective Service, and the U.S. Marshals may turn away items not included in the list of prohibited items, see below, such as items that have been altered from their original use or intent, and any item that can be used as a weapon. Law enforcement officers may admit items at their discretion that, when viewed in the context of the situation, are determined to be non-threatening.

Visitors carrying items that are legal, but otherwise prohibited from the courthouse will be denied entry until the item is disposed of. Visitors carrying illegal items will be detained and may be cited or arrested depending on the seriousness of the offense. Items confiscated by law enforcement will not be returned to the visitor.

Case agents, the United States Attorney, or Assistant U.S. Attorneys transporting weapons that are to be, or have been, admitted as evidence may bring these weapons into the Courthouse as long as such weapons are unloaded and locked in such a manner to prevent loading and firing. See [General Order RE: Courthouse Security](#).

If you have questions about whether an item is prohibited, please call the U.S. Marshals Service in Seattle at 206-370-8600 or in Tacoma at 253-302-8680 **before** visiting the courthouse.

The list of items prohibited in federal courthouses in the Western District of Washington includes, but is not limited to:

Firearms and Projectile Weapons

- Firearms or similar devices that expel a projectile through the action of an explosive
- BB or pellet guns
- Compressed air guns
- Antique firearms
- Flare guns
- Realistic replica or toy firearm
- Spear guns
- Starter pistols
- Stun guns, cattle prods, dart-firing stun guns, and other electric weapons or controlled devices
- Ammunition, shotgun shells or firearm cartridges, black powder, smokeless propellant powder
- Bows and arrows
- Slingshots

Bladed, Edged, or Sharp Tools or Implements

- Axes and hatchets
- Ice axes/ice picks
- Shuriken (throwing stars)
- Knives, sabers, swords, daggers, and other bladed devices of any length
- Razor-type blades such as box cutters, utility knives, and razor blades not in a cartridge
- Saws, including cordless portable power saws
- Scissors
- Screw drivers
- Drills, including portable power drills
- Tools including, but not limited to, wrenches, pliers, and folding, multi-purpose utility tools

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Club-like Items and Striking Devices

- Billy clubs
- Blackjacks
- Brass knuckles
- Chains
- Night sticks
- Martial arts weapons, including nunchucks and kubatons
- Hammers
- Crowbars
- Sporting equipment including, but not limited to, baseball bats, golf clubs, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, pool cues, and ski poles

Destructive Devices, Explosives, or Combustible Chemical Compounds and Mixtures

- Lighters, including arc, plasma, electronic, and e-lighters
- Blasting caps or detonators
- Dynamite, nitroglycerin, trinitrotoluene, ammonium nitrate, and others
- Fireworks
- Gunpowder
- Hand grenade, mine, bomb, rocket, missile, pipe bomb, plastic explosives
- Realistic replicas of explosives or similar devices
- Explosive or expanding gases
- Gas torches
- Flammable Liquids (i.e., gasoline, turpentine, and paint thinner)
- Flares
- Aerosol sprays

Disabling Chemicals and Other Dangerous Items

- Mace, pepper spray, tear gas, tear gas gun, or other chemical sprays designed for self-defense
- Batteries
- Spray paint and other graffiti tools
- Poisonous gases
- Chlorine and bleach
- Compressed gas cylinders, including fire extinguishers
- Toxic industrial chemicals and/or materials

Other Prohibited Items

- Controlled substances/illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and intoxicants
Note: Prescription drugs in their original containers are not prohibited.
- Electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, and other electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products
- Handcuff keys or lock-picking implements
- All liquids, with the exception of the following:
 - Medically necessary liquids in an amount of 3.4oz (100mL) or less
 - Formula, breast milk, and baby food for infants in the amount of 8oz (236.6mL) or lessSee [General Order 08-16 RE: Food and Beverages in the Courthouses in the Western District of Washington](#).