



# 2026 PEPPER SPRAY LAWS BY STATE

**Research date: March 14, 2026**

Most restrictive jurisdictions to watch: California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and certain Hawaii local jurisdictions deserve extra review because they impose specific product, age, seller, or labeling rules.

Interpretation note: Where this handout says “no statewide size cap identified,” that means no specific statewide container-size cap was identified in the sources reviewed. That does not eliminate local rules, restricted locations, or general misuse laws.

State	Status	Key restrictions / size limits	Primary authority
Alabama	Legal	18+; self-defense only; no statewide size cap identified.	Ala. Code § 13A-6-27
Alaska	Legal with restrictions	Sale to under-18 prohibited; school-site possession rules apply; no statewide size cap identified.	Alaska Stat. § 11.61.210; AS 11.81.900(a)(18)
Arizona	Legal	Generally legal for self-defense; no statewide size cap identified.	A.R.S. § 13-3101.7
Arkansas	Legal with restrictions	18+; self-defense only; container may not exceed 300 mL (~10.1 oz).	Ark. Code § 5-73-124
California	Legal with restrictions	18+; not for felons/narcotics addicts; aerosol container max 2.5 oz net weight; labeling/warnings required.	Cal. Penal Code § 22810
Colorado	Legal	Self-defense only; no statewide size cap identified.	General self-defense law; no pepper-spray-specific cap identified

Connecticut	Legal	Self-defense only; no statewide size cap identified.	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-19
Delaware	Legal	Defensive sprays allowed; no statewide size cap identified.	11 Del. C. § 222(7)
District of Columbia	Legal with restrictions	18+, or 14+ with parent/guardian consent; aerosol only; labeling/expiration instructions required.	D.C. Code § 7-2502.13
Florida	Legal with restrictions	Compact self-defense spray only; maximum 2 oz.	Fla. Stat. § 790.001; § 790.054
Georgia	Legal	Self-defense only; school safety zones and school functions may prohibit carry; no statewide size cap identified.	O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1
Hawaii	Legal with local restrictions	Statewide self-defense use allowed; Honolulu requires sales licensing, bars sales to minors, and commonly limits units to 2 oz.	HRS § 703-304; Honolulu Code § 41-27.3
Idaho	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Idaho Code § 18-3302
Illinois	Legal	18+; misuse prohibited; no statewide size cap identified.	720 ILCS 5/24-1(a)(3)(C)
Indiana	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Ind. Code Title 35, Ch. 47
Iowa	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Iowa Code § 702.7; Ch. 704
Kansas	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	K.S.A. § 21-5422

Kentucky	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	KRS § 527.010
Louisiana	Legal	Reasonable-force/self-defense standard; no statewide size cap identified.	La. R.S. § 14:22
Maine	Legal	Defensive use permitted; no statewide size cap identified.	17 M.R.S. § 1002
Maryland	Legal	Carry generally allowed as a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger; no statewide size cap identified.	Md. Code, Crim. Law § 4-101
Massachusetts	Legal with restrictions	18+; sales limited to licensed firearms dealers; under 18 needs a self-defense spray permit; no statewide size cap identified.	M.G.L. c.140 §§ 122C-122D
Michigan	Legal with restrictions	18+; qualifying self-defense devices include up to 35 g CN/CS or up to 18% OC; misuse prohibited.	MCL § 750.224d
Minnesota	Legal with restrictions	Use only in reasonable defense; under 16 needs written parent/guardian permission; product must be aerosol-propelled and labeled/instructed/dated.	Minn. Stat. § 624.731
Mississippi	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Miss. Code § 97-37-1
Missouri	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 563.031
Montana	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Mont. Code § 45-8-322
Nebraska	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1409

Nevada	Legal with restrictions	Aerosol self-defense sprays addressed in statute may not exceed 2 fl oz (~59 mL).	NRS § 202.370
New Hampshire	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	RSA § 159:20; § 159:23
New Jersey	Legal with restrictions	18+ without disqualifying convictions; only one container up to 0.75 oz (21 mL).	N.J.S.A. § 2C:39-6i
New Mexico	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	N.M. Stat. §§ 30-1-12, 30-7-2
New York	Legal with significant restrictions	18+; generally sold only by licensed firearms dealers, pharmacists, or other approved vendors; no more than two units at once; labeling/inserts required. Commonly summarized product rules include a 0.75 oz size limit and 0.7% MC cap.	N.Y. Penal Law § 265.20(14)-(15); § 270.05; 10 NYCRR Part 54
North Carolina	Legal with restrictions	18+ and not a felon; spray containers up to 150 cc (~5 oz); cartridges up to 50 cc.	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-401.6
North Dakota	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	No pepper-spray-specific cap identified
Ohio	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	No pepper-spray-specific cap identified
Oklahoma	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	No pepper-spray-specific cap identified
Oregon	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	ORS §§ 163.212-213
Pennsylvania	Legal	Excluded from weapon definition when used lawfully for self-defense; no statewide size cap identified.	18 Pa.C.S. § 908.1

Rhode Island	Legal	18+; no statewide size cap identified.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-47-57
South Carolina	Legal with restrictions	18+; container must not exceed 50 cc (~1.7 oz).	S.C. Code § 16-23-470
South Dakota	Legal	Self-defense only; school restrictions may apply; no statewide size cap identified.	SDCL § 13-39A-43; § 22-18-4.8
Tennessee	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	T.C.A. § 39-17-1309
Texas	Legal	Small chemical dispensers for personal protection are generally allowed; no statewide size cap identified.	Tex. Penal Code §§ 46.03, 46.05
Utah	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Utah Code § 76-2-402
Vermont	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	No pepper-spray-specific cap identified
Virginia	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	Va. Code § 18.2-312
Washington	Legal with restrictions	18+, or 14-17 with parental consent; no statewide size cap identified.	RCW § 9.91.160
West Virginia	Legal with limited location rules	General statewide carry allowed; some public-facility rules apply; Capitol Complex limits canisters over 1 oz.	W. Va. Code § 61-7-2
Wisconsin	Legal with restrictions	18+; OC or CS gel products only; 10% OC cap remains in administrative rules commonly cited for compliant consumer units.	Wis. Stat. § 941.26; 2013 Wis. Act 77; Wis. Admin. Code JUS 14.12
Wyoming	Legal	No statewide size cap identified.	No pepper-spray-specific cap identified

## Research Notes and Source Basis

Primary state-law checks for key restricted jurisdictions included California Penal Code § 22810; Massachusetts General Laws c.140 §§ 122C-122D; Michigan Compiled Laws § 750.224d; Minnesota Stat. § 624.731; New York Penal Law § 265.20 and § 270.05; D.C. Code § 7-2502.13; Alaska Stat. § 11.61.210; Maryland Crim. Law § 4-101; Honolulu Code § 41-27.3; Wisconsin Stat. § 941.26 and related administrative materials.

Comprehensive cross-check sources used for the full 50-state table: POM Industries 'Pepper Spray Laws by State' (updated Oct. 30, 2025) and The Atomic Bear 'Is Pepper Spray Legal in All 50 States?' (published Jan. 28, 2026).

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