

Tactical Knife DON'Ts

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

Don't Carry It Visibly In Your Pocket

Everyone spots tactical knives in other people's front pockets.

- This gives away the fact that you have a potential weapon and also helps "hostiles" know where and how to foul your draw.
- A dishonest person could lie and say you threatened him or her with a knife, and he can prove that you have one because he's seen it in your pocket. It is your word against the other person's.
- As long as it is legal for you to do so, waistband carry is better. Any complete concealment is preferable.

Don't Switch The Clip On A 2ND Blade

Some people carry two knives, one on both sides. It's tempting to set one up for left hand and one up for right hand. Don't.

- You may not be able to draw your knife with the hand on that side (you could be injured, you could be lying awkwardly on the ground, etc.)
- If you have a right-hand knife and a left-hand knife, you must learn 4 draws (right hand, right knife; left hand, left knife; left hand, right knife; and right hand, left knife. If both knives are set up the same way, you need learn only 2 draws (right hand and left hand on either side).
- Redundancy is great, but don't make your job harder when under stress/injured.

Don't Put It In Your Pocket And Forget It

Too many knife owners neglect their knives' locking mechanisms.

- Liner locks are designed to wear, and over time will migrate from "left" to "right".

- Inspect the lockup on your knife, and if it's visible, the mating of the lock (such as a liner lock) on the blade tang.
- A liner lock that migrates all the way to the right hand side of the tang is no longer safe. A rocker-bar locking folder that wears to the point that it doesn't mate tightly with the notch in the blade is no longer safe.
- Always check your knives periodically, even if you don't think you've used them, to see if anything changes. Clean them to remove pocket lint and debris, too (and never put anything else in your pocket with your knife if that's where you're carrying it, despite our first warning).

Don't Forget The Risks Of Shoulder Carry

We've shown how you can rig up a shoulder harness for any fixed blade with paracord and the knife's sheath. There are lots of folding knife sheaths out there that can be used with the same system.

- This is a convenient carry, but understand that when you go to draw, you may look like you're drawing a gun.
- This is a subconscious "flag" that says "weapon" in most people's minds; it telegraphs your intent.
- Know the risks of this carry when you use it.

Don't Use It For Utility Tasks

Even though a "tactical folder" is meant as a weapon and tool both, don't use it that way.

- Carry a separate utility blade (like a Swiss Army Knife) to keep your self-defense knife as sharp as possible for when you need it.

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