

NJ AIR GUN FAQ'S



Q1. What can I hunt with an air gun in NJ?

Squirrel and rabbit can be hunted with an air gun during the small game seasons.

Q2. What caliber air gun can I use?

.177 caliber through .22 caliber air guns can be used.

Q3. What license do I need to hunt with an air gun?

A basic firearm license is all you need to hunt with an air gun. No rifle permit is needed.

Q4. Can I take my hunter ed class with an air gun?

No. You still need to shoot a shotgun at the basic firearms hunter ed class.

Q5. Can I use a BB gun?

No. The air gun needs to shoot pellets. Wadcutter, domed/pointed and hollow point designed pellets are all permitted.

Q6. How fast does my air gun need to shoot?

Your air gun needs to have a muzzle velocity of at least 600 fps.

Q7. Are air guns considered firearms in the state of NJ?

Yes. In NJ, air guns are defined as firearms. Therefore ALL firearm laws that apply to other modern firearms in NJ, also apply to air guns.

Q8. How old do I need to be to hunt with an air gun?

The minimum age for hunting with an air gun is no different then other types of hunting. You need to be at least 10 years old.

Q9. What do I need to buy an air gun in NJ?

Since NJ law defines air guns as firearms, one needs a NJ Firearm Purchasers ID Card to purchase one.

Q10. Where should I aim on a rabbit or squirrel?

Head shots are recommended for rabbits and squirrels. Accuracy is key when hunting with the air gun.

Q11. How do I unload an air gun?

The safe and recommended way to unload an air gun is to shoot it into a safe backstop at the end of the hunt.

Q12. Do safety zone laws apply when hunting with an air gun?

Yes. As with all firearms, the safety zone is still 450 feet.

Q13. Is it legal to use an air bow?

No, they are an air gun which shoots arrows which are not legal ammunition.