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Review: Best Pepper Spray

Do you know that an **American is sexually assaulted** every 68 seconds? And every 9 minutes, the victim is a child. Do you also know that **1 out of every six women and 1 in every 33 men** have experienced attempted rape in their lifetime? Though the numbers are decreasing each day, it seems very scary. But, **the scariest statistic** is that only 25 out of every 1000 perpetrators will end up in prison.

So, equipping yourself with the right self-defense tools and strategies in case of a sudden attack would be brilliant. Right? Even though **handguns** or **rifles** may work as a self-defense tool to take out a target, they need significant training to operate and practice. They are also expensive and have legalities surrounding them.

Unlike firearms, pepper sprays are lightweight, inexpensive, concealable, safe, and completely legal in all 50 states. So, they are my favorite medium of non-lethal defensive tools. My whole family has been carrying Saber, Fox Labs, Mace, and several other brands' pepper spray for the last 35+ years. Here, from my experience, I am reviewing the 4 best pepper sprays in the market that you must have in your self-defense toolkit.

If you are looking to buy the best pepper sprays for personal protection, you have come to the right place. **The reviewed pepper sprays are:**

1. **Sabre Red Pepper Spray:** Perfect for joggers, runners, athletes, or anyone with a busy lifestyle. It is concealable, small yet powerful. It covers a distance of up to 12 feet or 4 meters.

2. **POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip:** With a slick and modern design, the POM Pepper spray is lightweight and easily attachable to any accessories. It has got a 2M SKU that covers 10 feet of distance quickly.
3. **Fox Labs Mean Green:** This pepper spray, built for both everyday carry and home defense, will provide you protection at your fingertip. Moreover, it has got the state of art Green UV technology that makes the attackers identifiable easily even if they want to wipe it off all day long.
4. **Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel with belt Clip:** One of the best-selling and popular Sabre products, the Sabre Crossfire pepper gel has been used by police for many decades. Capable of fending off multiple moving threats simultaneously with its 360-degree deployment capacity, this product couldn't be any better. It is one of my personal favorites.

Here's the quick comparison of the reviewed pepper sprays:

Product	Sabre red pepper gel	POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip	Fox Labs Mean Green	Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel with Belt Clip
Carry Method	Adjustable Hand Carry Method	Ambidextrous clip, traditional key ring, or snap hook	Hand, Belt, or Holster	Clip
SKU	27,292	2M (2,000,000)	3M (3,000,000)	2M (2,000,000)
Bursts & Range	35 bursts at up 12 feet coverage	25 bursts at up 10 feet coverage	34 to 36 one-half second bursts at up 12 feet coverage	18 bursts at up to 18 feet or 5.5 meters coverage

Dye	Yes	Yes	Yes (Visible Green)	Yes (Visible Green)
Safety Features	Yes	Yes	Yes - Spring loaded flip top	Yes - flip top
Size	.75 oz (37 mL)	.5 oz (14 mL)	.53 oz (20 mL)	3.04 oz (90 mL)
Self-life	Four years	Depends	Three years	Four years
Colors available	Black and Pink	Black and Aqua	Only black	Only black
Spray Pattern	Gel	Stream	Splatter Stream, Heavy Stream, and Cone Fog	Spray

How to Use a Pepper Sprays:

It is always good to go through training and threat detection before using one, even if it seems straightforward to you. Basic training will decrease your response time to the situation. And it will ensure you won't be the one pouring tears for 3 hours and running your nose all day long. So here's a clip-on, how to use pepper spray?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAV1aBvhBUU>

Factors You Must Consider Before Buying the Best Pepper Spray:

What makes the best pepper spray for you? If you have ever thought of this question, then here's the answer. Consider formula, delivery pattern, ingredients, carrier and size, before you choose to buy the best pepper spray for yourself:

1. **Formula:** Not all pepper sprays come with the same chemical ingredients. There are three significant formulas currently available in the market: CN, CS, and OC. OC pepper spray causes pain and inflammation in your mucous membranes and around the face making it

very difficult to breathe and open your eyes. The effect of OC sprays starts immediately within seconds. So, this is the most effective ingredient of pepper spray.

The CN and CS, on the other hand, are military-graded self-defense sprays that cause significant pain but not severe inflammation. By the way, tear gases have CN and CS in them. If you have experienced it, then you know the feeling. 😊

2. **Delivery Pattern:** Each pepper spray has each delivery pattern. For example, the stream pepper spray is best for long-distance outdoor self-protection, whereas the foam and gel pepper sprays are best for indoor short-distance self-defense. (**Scroll to the end of the article where I covered pepper spray patterns in detail.**)

3. **Active Ingredient:** There's a percentage value of pepper that ranges between 5-20%. What that refers to is the active ingredient in the carrier. So, 5% value means there are 5% active pepper in the spray. But, what is more, important is the SHU, known as Scoville Heat Unit, value. SHU indicates how hot or intense the pepper spray is.

If you take one pinch of jalapeno pepper and rub it in your eye, you will experience 50 SHU. Generally, all the pepper spray in the market has SHU in a million units. So the higher SHU, the better effective it is.

4. **Carrier:** Two types of ingredients are found in a Carrier: Oil-based solutions and water-based solutions. An oil-based carrier is preferred as it will be much more difficult for assailants to wipe it off the face than a water-based one.
5. **Size:** There are different sizes of pepper spray in the market, from smaller to larger ones. So, when you start thinking about pepper spray, you should start thinking about its use. While the smaller ones are easy to carry in everyday situations, the larger ones are built for home defense.

1. Sabre Red Pepper Gel:

The Sabre red pepper gel (runner edition) was explicitly designed for joggers, runners, athletes, and anyone with a busy lifestyle. This pepper gel has an SKU of 27,292 and can quickly reach a distance of 12 feet or 4 meters. As it is gel-based, external weather conditions such as wind don't affect its performance.

This pepper spray is an excellent option for your everyday carry because you can strap it to your palm. In addition, it is quick to deploy and can hit the target from a significant distance. So, it provides you with police-level protection at your fingertip. I have a particular preference for this pepper gel as it is small, very effective, easily deployable, and doesn't need any training.

It also has a UV dye in it. So, police can identify the suspect quickly even if the person tries to clean it.

Carry Method	Adjustable Hand Strap Carry Method
SKU	27,292
Bursts & Range	35 bursts at up 12 feet coverage
Dye	Yes
Safety Features	Yes
Size	.75 oz (37 mL)
Self-life	Four years
Colors available	Black and Pink

Spray Pattern	Gel
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQaNUKpfZa4>

Pros:

- + Affordable and palm strap to carry
- + No cross-contamination possibility
- + Highly accurate to hit the target
- + 12 feet coverage

Cons:

- May drip if put in a bag or pocket if put without extra care.

2. POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip

This pepper spray, small in size, has an impressive SHU of 2,000,000 covering 10 feet of distance. So, if you are looking for an everyday carry pepper spray that is extraordinarily strong, easy to carry, and effective, then it is for you.

This POM has a Stream Spray Pattern making it very powerful and accurate to hit the target. Moreover, this spray's sleek and modern design is very appealing. If you care about looks, then this is for you.

Its flip-top safety pin prevents any accidental dripping and makes everyday carrying very safe. Oh, not to mention, you can customize your model with three different options: snap hook, key chain, or clip, which make it easily attachable to any pocket, running accessories, or handbag.

Carry Method	Ambidextrous clip, traditional key ring, or snap hook
SKU	2M (2,000,000)
Bursts & Range	25 bursts at up 10 feet coverage
Dye	Yes
Safety Features	Yes
Size	.5 oz (14 mL)
Self-life	Depends
Colors available	Black and Aqua
Spray Pattern	Stream

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQaNUKpfZa4>

Pros:

- + Strongest flip-top safety
- + Highly accurate to hit the target
- + No cross-contamination possibility
- + Long-distance coverage of 12 feet
- + Easily attachable to any pocket, running accessories, or handbag.

Cons:

- Fewer bursts available compared to other pepper sprays
- Not suitable for home defense

3. Fox Labs Mean Green

The fox lab is suitable for both everyday carry and home defense. It comes with an impressive 3,000,000 SKU that has a range of 10 feet. The 34 to 36 one-half second bursts make it very easy to fend yourself off against multiple attackers.

Unlike other UV dyes that identify the attacker, the Fox Lab Green Mean has a green coloring UV dye that doesn't require a blacklight to show. Also, it is incredibly challenging to wash off the green UV dye thoroughly. So, the perpetrator isn't far from hearing a police siren. Don't worry; the Green Dye is made from a vegetable base, making it very safe for human use.

Carry Method	Hand, Belt, or Holster
SKU	3M (3,000,000)
Bursts & Range	34 to 36 one-half second bursts at up 12 feet coverage
Dye	Visible Green Yes
Safety Features	Yes - Spring loaded flip top
Size	.53 oz (20 mL)
Self-life	Three years
Colors available	Only black
Spray Pattern	Splatter Stream (0.53 oz.), Heavy Stream, and Cone Fog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rsgk2YrxGyI&t=3s>

Pros:

- + An excellent option for both home defense and everyday carry
- + Long-range coverage up to 15 feet
- + Bright green dye to mark the attacker easily

Cons:

- Doesn't come with the pocket clip
- May need to buy a holster to carry it

4. Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel with Belt Clip

The Sabre crossfire Pepper gel uses the latest crossfire technology that makes it more accurate to use from any angle. Due to its 360-degree deployment capacity and impressive 18 feet range, Police officers in this country have long been using this pepper gel.

Its crossfire technology also allows engaging many moving threats simultaneously. You can spray it from any angle or even upside down.

I have three of these at my home that I usually keep for self-defense. This specific version has been my long favorite because It is exceptionally effective in all situations: everyday use or camping. It has got a long shelf-life of 4 years and has 2 million SKU. So, buy at least one for your family.

Carry Method	Clip
SKU	2M (2,000,000)

Bursts & Range	18 bursts at up to 18 feet or 5.5 meters coverage
Dye	Visible Green Yes
Safety Features	Yes - flip top
Size	3.04 oz (90 mL)
Self-life	4 years
Colors available	Only black
Spray Pattern	Spray

<https://www.amazon.com/SABRE-RED-Pepper-GEL-Orientation/dp/B07GVSHG61>

Video: Unable to find an appropriate one. All videos are from other reviewers with an affiliate link in them.

Pros:

- + Most extended range of 18 feet
- + Has crossfire technology making it more accurate from any angle
- + Safe and easy to carry due to flip top and pocket clip
- + Maximize target acquisition and protection against multiple threat

Cons:

- N/A

Conclusion:

Currently, the above 4 pepper sprays are the most popular non-lethal tools in the market. Though there are many options out there, I would say that these four will cover all your needs with no questions asked. **But, if you ask me which two of these I must have?**

I would recommend Sabre Red Pepper Spray for everyday carry because it is easy to carry, small, and powerful. And Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel for home defense because its crossfire technology will make you safe and engage many moving targets. The latter one can also be used for everyday carry.

Here, I've covered essential topics on pepper spray. It is highly recommended that you read it to get a comprehensive idea.

Types of Pepper Sprays Patterns:

1. **Pepper Spray Stream:** This type of pepper spray is very effective from a distance of 15-20 feet, depending on the size of the canister and the amount of solution. It is very effective in windy situations as it sprays with a higher force and is less likely to blow back at you. It is recommended to use outdoors only.
2. **Pepper Spray Fogger (Cone):** This fogger sprays fine droplets from a distance of 4-8 feet. This one provides a greater coverage area and creates a wall between you and the attacker. But, they are not very effective in windy conditions as they may miss the target and cross-contaminate you. Also, don't use it indoors as it moves through the air faster.
3. **Pepper Spray Gel:** This pepper spray is thicker than liquid sprays and isn't susceptible to wind or blowbacks. Thus, it is safe as it cannot cross-contaminate you. It can travel a distance of up to 25 feet which is 20% further than regular spray. This one is a good choice for self-defense in both close and outside quarters.

4. **Pepper Spray Foam:** The foam-based pepper sprays are similar to the gel-based ones.

When sprayed, they coat the attacker with thick foam that causes inflammation and irritation. You can achieve protection from 6-8 feet away. It is also less vulnerable to wind and blowback.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv0uefIAg74>

Different Types of Pepper Sprays Available in the Market:

1. **Self-defense pepper spray:** Self-defense Pepper sprays are small in size and come in single-use containers. These are inexpensive, easy to carry, and highly effective. You can carry it concealed in your pocket or a keychain. The pepper spray reviewed here are all self-defense pepper sprays.
2. **Aerosolized Pepper Spray:** Another common form of pepper spray is the aerosolized variety with compressed chemical irritant air. Operating these pepper sprays requires very little skill.
3. **Pepper Ball Launchers:** These sprays throw irritant pepper powder projectiles that break on impact. They are deployable up to 150 feet. In addition, small handheld launchers release high pepper doses around the target that makes them very effective at long distances.
5. **Wildlife Deterrent Pepper Sprays:** Many animals like bears or mountain lions are big, fast, and unrelenting fighters. Though firearms have been a self-defense metric in the wilderness, you can stop them more effectively using pepper spray than firearms at close range. So, no matter how great a shooter you are, if they cannot aim the target at a closer range, use skunk's strategy to scare them off.

States with Pepper Spray Restrictions:

Pepper spray is one of the affordable, straightforward, and non-lethal forms of self-defense for people. Said that few states had put some forms of restrictions on it. So, before you go out to buy one for yourself or your loved ones, you must understand the laws surrounding its possessions in each state.

Is it legal to carry Pepper spray?

Yes, it is entirely legal to carry pepper spray for self-defense purposes in all 50 states and Washington DC. Some states, however, have age and other restrictions in place. These data are based on 2021 laws of all 50 US states and Washington DC. Please check with your state law again before you purchase one.

State	Must be 18	Notes
Alabama		Cannot carry in a school.
Alaska	Yes	State laws prohibit carrying pepper spray in a school without proper authorization.
Arizona		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot be used against verbal provocation.• Container cannot exceed 150 cubic centimeters (5 ounces)
Arkansas		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibited for anyone addicted to any narcotic drug.• Container cannot exceed 150 cubic centimeters (5 ounces)
California	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibited for anyone addicted to any narcotic drug.• Container cannot exceed 2.5 ounces
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convicted felons cannot possess.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container cannot exceed 2 ounces
Florida		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convicted felons cannot possess. • Container cannot exceed 2 ounces
Georgia		.5 ounces if mailed
Hawaii	Yes	.5 ounces if mailed
Idaho		
Illinois	Yes	Can't use pepper spray in an enclosed room with more than 20 people.
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		Criminal use of pepper spray is illegal.
Maine		Minors are prohibited from using pepper spray between one hour before sunset and one hour before sunrise.
Maryland	Yes	Minors are prohibited from using pepper spray between one hour before sunset and one hour before sunrise.
Massachusetts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal to ship human formula pepper spray. Individuals prohibited from possessing a pistol cannot have pepper spray. • A convicted felon (due to imprisonment, violent crime, mental illness) punishable by two years cannot buy or possess pepper spray. • A firearms identification card is required for purchasers 15 to 18 years old.

Michigan	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cannot contain more than 35 grams of any combination of orthochlorobenzalmalononitrile and inert ingredients. ● Cannot have more than 18% oleoresin capsicum. ● Cannot contain an ultraviolet dye and no more than 18% oleoresin capsicum.
Minnesota		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals must be at least 16 years old to possess pepper spray. ● Any individuals prohibited from possessing a pistol cannot possess pepper spray.
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		Containers must be 2 ounces or less.
Nevada	Yes	Containers must be 2 ounces or less.
New Hampshire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Felons are prohibited from possessing pepper spray. ● Containers must be pocket-sized and cannot release more than 3/4 ounce of pepper spray.
New Jersey	Yes	Containers cannot exceed .75 ounces
New Mexico		
New York	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Containers cannot exceed 5 ounces ● The paper spray container must be pocket-sized.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals can purchase a maximum of 2 pepper sprays in a single transaction. • Individuals convicted of a felony or assault cannot possess pepper spray. • It is illegal to ship human formula pepper spray.
North Carolina		Containers cannot exceed 5 ounces
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island	Yes	
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		Must be a "small chemical dispenser."
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		

Washington	Yes	Must be 18 or at least 14 with parental permission.
West Virginia		
Wisconsin	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pepper spray containers must be less than 2 ounces. ● Pepper sprays must contain less than 10% of oleoresin capsicum. ● Pepper spray cannot be disguised or camouflaged. ● Individuals must be at least 18 years old to buy or possess pepper spray or a minor with parental permission.
Wyoming		

References:

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/pepper-spray-laws-by-state>

<https://hero.us.com/state-restrictions/>

<https://www.pepper-spray-store.com/pages/states>

Most Commonly Asked Questions:

Question 1: How long does pepper spray last?

Answer: For the majority of people, the irritating effect lasts for 30-50 minutes. But, previous health complications may increase irritation effects. Here are the effects of pepper spray:

- A runny nose
- Chest pain
- Throat burning
- Dry cough
- Shortness of Breath

- Panic
- Rashes, blisters, or burns on contact with the skin.

Question 2: Can you go to jail for pepper-spraying someone?

Answer: Depends. One important thing to note is you **need to use pepper spray in self-defense**. And you use it which is **necessary** and **proportionate**. For example, if someone pulls a gun or knife, you can use it as self-defense. However, you can't use it if someone threatens you from a distance.

To summarize, if you don't want an appointment at the court and spend a few thousand dollars, then use it purely for self-defense. Only when someone tries to harm you or put your life in danger.

Question 3: What neutralizes pepper spray?

Answer: It is good to know the antidote to pepper spray if you accidentally spray it on someone or yourself. You need to apply cold water for an extended period, usually for 30 mins.

You can also apply milk to the affected area using a spray bottle and saturate the area using a clean towel. Please **do not rub or touch the affected area** with your hand as it may cause more irritation. Instead, move into an area with fresh air as soon as possible.

One common belief is that the mixture of water and baking soda stops the burning sensation. But, unfortunately, it is **simply not true**.

Question 4: Can you die from pepper spray?

Answer: It is pretty unlikely that the temporary irritation caused by pepper spray will kill someone. But, deaths have been reported where the individual has pre-existing asthma, severe disease, or drug use history.

Question 5: Does expired pepper spray work?

Answer: It may work but won't be effective. Most pepper spray has a validity of 3 years or 36 months. So, after expiration, the pepper mace begins to break down, making it lose its potency and effectiveness.

Question 6: Can pepper spray kill your dog?

Answer: No, it won't kill your dog. If you spray the dog with pepper spray, it will experience significant discomfort. Pepper spray will cause temporary burning sensations in the eyes, nose, and mucous membranes but not won't cause any permanent damage.

Question 7: Can you bring pepper spray on the airlines?

Answer: No. Carrying pepper spray in commercial airlines is not permitted. It poses a significant threat to fellow passengers and crew members; If you carry one, it will be a felony. The fine could be as much as \$25,000.

Moreover, you are not allowed to carry pepper spray on **government buildings and state establishments**. This rule applies to all 50 states and Washington D.C.

Question 8: Who can not carry pepper spray?

Answer: Children not over the age of 18 and persons convicted of a felony or an assault are in no circumstances allowed to carry pepper spray. It is the same for all 50 states and Washington DC.

Affiliate Table:

Product 1: Sabre Red Pepper Gel:

Product Name:	Sabre Red Pepper Gel Spray for Runners
Shortened Name:	Sabre Red Pepper
Image URL:	https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/81H6JJCCt4L._AC_SL1500_.jpg
Affiliate Partner Name ## 1:	Amazon
Link:	https://www.amazon.com/SABRE-Pepper-Spray-Runners-Clip/dp/B08VY7JBW7
Price:	\$9.99
Affiliate Partner Name ## 2:	Sports Mans Guide
Link:	https://www.sportsmansguide.com/product/index/sabre-runner-pepper-gel-with-strap-and-clip-on-alarm?a=2247442 [It sells with an alarm, so I am not including it here.]
Price:	\$17.99
Affiliate Partner Name ## 3:	
Link:	
Price:	

Product 2: POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip

Product Name:	POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip
Shortened Name:	POM Pepper Spray Flip Top Pocket Clip
Image URL:	https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51%2BdPnY4l5L._AC_SL1000_.jpg
Affiliate Partner Name ## 1:	Amazon
Link:	https://www.amazon.com/POM-Pepper-Spray-Flip-Snap/dp/B089R9JK3H
Price:	Not Found
Affiliate Partner Name ## 2:	
Link:	
Price:	
Affiliate Partner Name ## 3:	
Link:	
Price:	

Product 3: Fox Labs Mean Green

Product Name:	Fox Labs Mean-Green 3 Ounce (84 Grams) 6% H2OC Stream Pepper Spray
Shortened Name:	Fox Labs Mean-Green
Image URL:	https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/31Rx0FFgp2L._AC_.jpg
Affiliate Partner Name ## 1:	Amazon
Link:	https://www.amazon.com/Fox-Labs-Mean-Green-Stream-Pepper/dp/B008VOS7ZM
Price:	Not Found
Affiliate Partner Name ## 2:	
Link:	
Price:	
Affiliate Partner Name ## 3:	
Link:	
Price:	

Product 4: Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel with Belt Clip

Product Name:	SABRE Crossfire Pepper Gel, Maximizes Target Acquisition, Deploys At Any Angle, 18 Bursts of Maximum Police Strength OC Spray, 18-Foot Range, Gel is Safer, Belt Clip For Quick Access To Protection
Shortened Name:	Sabre Crossfire Pepper Gel with Belt Clip
Image URL:	https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/61NwxarZsWL._AC_SL1000_.jpg
Affiliate Partner Name ## 1:	Amazon
Link:	https://www.amazon.com/SABRE-RED-Pepper-GEL-Orientation/dp/B07GVSHG61
Price:	Not Found
Affiliate Partner Name ## 2:	
Link:	
Price:	
Affiliate Partner Name ## 3:	
Link:	
Price:	

