

## FREE PRINTABLE RESOURCE

# SURVIVAL KNIFE BUYER'S CHECKLIST

The specs that matter, the steel tradeoffs, and a spot to check off what you're looking for before you buy.

## CONSTRUCTION

- ☐ **Full tang, fixed blade**  
One solid piece of steel, no weak pivot point
- ☐ **Blade length: 4-7 inches**  
Covers nearly every survival task
- ☐ **Blade thickness: 1/8-3/16 inch**  
Resists snapping under baton strikes
- ☐ **Drop point blade shape**  
Strong tip, versatile for most tasks

## HANDLE & GRIP

- ☐ **Rubber, micarta, or textured synthetic**  
Secure grip when wet or tired
- ☐ **Finger guard or contoured stop**  
Keeps hand from sliding onto the edge

**Remember:** A folding knife is a fine backup or EDC piece, but the pivot is a weak point — don't rely on it as your primary survival blade.

## STEEL: PICK YOUR TRADEOFF

- ☐ **High carbon (1095, SK-5)**  
Sharpens easily, needs oil and dry storage
- ☐ **Stainless**  
Rust-resistant, harder to sharpen once dull
- ☐ **Premium (S35VN, M390)**  
Best of both, higher cost

## BEFORE YOU BUY

- ☐ **Check your state's knife law**  
Blade length and locking mechanisms are regulated differently by state
- ☐ **Match steel to your maintenance habits**
- ☐ **Test the grip before you commit**

**Know your local law:** Blade length limits and carry rules vary by state and city. Verify current regulations before you purchase or carry.

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Source: American Knife & Tool Institute, State Knife Laws. For informational purposes only.

GEAR THAT SHOWS UP BEFORE YOU NEED IT.

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