



The Gun Doc Guide to FFL Transfers: How to Choose a Dealer & What It Costs

Buying a firearm online is incredibly convenient. Whether you found a rare collector's piece on an auction site or scored a great deal on a factory-new pistol, the modern digital marketplace makes finding exactly what you want easy. Don't forget to check with Gun Doc as he can also score you some savings with his access to distribution and the in store inventory!

<https://Gun-Doc-US>

However, you can't just have a gun shipped directly to your front door. Federal law requires interstate firearm purchases to pass through a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder. This intermediary dealer logs the firearm into their inventory, verifies your identity, and runs the required NICS background check before handing you the keys to your new purchase. This is called an FFL Transfer.

While the concept is simple, choosing the wrong local dealer can result in long delays, surprising fees, or customer service headaches. Here is everything you need to know to choose the perfect FFL dealer and budget for the service.

1. How to Choose the Right FFL Dealer

Not all FFL holders are created equal. When shopping around for a dealer to handle your transfer, look past just the closest pin on Google Maps. Consider these three distinct types of operations:

- **The Brick-and-Mortar Gun Shop:** Traditional storefronts are usually reliable and have structured retail hours. The catch? They often charge higher transfer fees because they would prefer you buy from their

wall inventory rather than importing a gun from a competitor online. In most cases they will add on a transfer fee for in-store purchases on top of the purchase price.

- **The Home-Based FFL:** These are licensed individuals running small businesses out of private residences or separate workshops. They frequently offer the lowest fees and highly personalized service, but you may have to coordinate a specific pickup appointment around their schedule, however there is also more flexibility in times and days of the week they can assist you.
- **Big Box Outdoor Retailers:** High-volume national chains occasionally handle transfers, but their corporate compliance processes usually mean longer wait times at the counter and strict, unyielding store policies.
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Questions to Ask a Prospective Dealer

Before selecting a dealer on an online checkout menu, pick up the phone or shoot them a quick email to confirm a few details:

- "Are you currently accepting transfers from online retailers?" (Never skip this—some shops pause transfers during high-volume seasons).
- "What is your exact fee structure for a transfer?"
- "Do you require me to contact you before the gun ships, or just wait for a delivery notification?"

2. The Step-by-Step FFL Transfer Process

If you want a flawless transfer experience, timing is everything. Follow this sequence to keep the paperwork moving smoothly:

Step 1: Select Your FFL & Purchase

Purchase the firearm online. At checkout, select your local FFL from the retailer's database. If they aren't listed, you will need to ask your local dealer to email a copy of their license to the seller.

Step 2: Track the Shipment

The seller ships the firearm to your local FFL. Keep an eye on the tracking number so you know exactly when the package reaches its destination.

Step 3: Wait for the Intake Notification

Do not rush to the shop the minute your tracking says 'Delivered.' The FFL must legally log the firearm into their ATF 'Bound Book' before they can hand it over. Wait for them to call or text you stating it is ready for pickup.

Step 4: Complete the Background Check

Go to the shop with a valid, government-issued photo ID featuring your current address and the processing fee. If the Photo ID does not have your current address listed, you will need a government issued document with your current home address as a secondary form of ID. This does not need a photo but must contain your name and address. Remember Government Issued. (Tax Statements from the County Auditor, Car Title from BMV Etc.) You will then fill out ATF Form 4473 and place your signature and date on the form. At that time the

FFL holder will complete a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check. This can result in a few returns. Proceed which allows the FFL Holder to transfer the Firearm to you. Delay which means the FBI is holding up your transfer as the research something that came up in the computer search. The delay will have a Transfer Date on it. Which means if the FBI does not respond back to the dealer, they may then transfer the firearm to you. Researching indicates the FBI is manually looking at the request. This usually takes up to about and hours It may either turn into a Delay or a Proceed. The last is Denied. If your request is denied the FFL Holder can NOT transfer the firearm to you. They can NOT transfer the firearm during a delay or Researching! They only time they can transfer is if the delay (Brady Date Passes) passes with no response or the dealer receives a Proceed! Look for another Blog here to see what you can do if there is a Denied and you do not understand why you were denied.

3. Typical FFL Transfer Costs & Fees

Because federal law does not cap what an individual business can charge to process paperwork, fees vary significantly based on your region and the dealer's business model.

FFL Dealer Type	Typical Fee Range	Best For
Home-Based FFL	\$30 – \$45	Budget-conscious buyers who appreciate a flexible, 1-on-1 experience.
Independent Gun Store	\$40 – \$60	Standard convenience, reliable store hours, and on-the-spot accessory shopping.
Urban / High-Regulation Areas	\$50 – \$100+	Shoppers in states like CA, NY, or NJ where local compliance costs are drastically higher.

 **The NFA Exception:** If you are transferring an NFA item—such as a suppressor, Short-Barreled Rifle (SBR), or Any Other Weapon (AOW)—the transfer fee is substantially higher, typically ranging from \$75 to \$100+ due to the extensive long-term paperwork filing required of the dealer.

Hidden Fees to Watch Out For

- **Per-Background Check vs. Per-Gun:** Some dealers charge a flat fee per background check, allowing you to transfer multiple guns at once for a single fee. Others charge strictly per serial number. Clarify this if you are ordering a bulk shipment.
- **Storage Fees:** If you leave your firearm at the shop for more than a couple of weeks after it arrives, many dealers will begin charging a daily or weekly storage fee penalty.

The Bottom Line

An FFL transfer isn't just a legal hurdle; it's a great opportunity to build a relationship with a local business. Take a few minutes to compare local rates via tools like the Gun Broker, FFL Finder, and many others call ahead to verify their intake policy, and you'll enjoy a seamless, stress-free delivery. Remember if you purchase the Firearm / Gun Through Gun Doc and Pick up in our store we DO NOT CHARGE The FFL Fee as it is waived. Call us to see what you can purchase the Firearm through us and then take into consideration the FFL fee and you may find it is cheaper to purchase Direct from us without the FFL Fee. We will still complete the process but there is no charge to complete it!

<https://Shop.Gun-Doc.US>