

Northern Territory

OC SPRAY TRIAL

Public Information

This brochure provides general guidelines and information.



For more information visit:
<https://pfes.nt.gov.au/police/firearmsweapons/oc-spray-trial>
or scan the QR code

TRIAL EXTENDED TO 31 DECEMBER 2026

Who can purchase, possess, carry and use OC spray?

From 1 September 2025, the NT Government is running a trial allowing eligible members of the public to purchase, possess, carry and use OC spray for self-defence.

To be eligible to purchase OC spray a person must:

-  Be aged 18 or over
-  Present valid photo ID at the time of purchase
-  Complete a declaration that you have no relevant criminal history, police or court orders
-  Only purchase in person, from a Declared Firearms Dealer within the NT

Know your responsibilities

If you're participating in the OC Spray Trial, it's important to understand your legal obligations.

Always carry your Buyer Declaration

You are required to carry a copy of your Buyer Declaration when carrying OC spray and provide it to a police officer if requested.

Possession and carriage

Eligible members of the public may only carry up to two OC spray canisters in a public place at any time. OC spray must not be carried in a manner that exposes it to public view.



Buyer Declaration required

At the Declared Firearms Dealer, prior to purchasing OC spray, you must read a **Prohibited Person fact sheet** and sign a Buyer Declaration form.

This confirms that:

- You meet the eligibility criteria
- You understand your legal responsibilities

You will receive a copy of your Buyer Declaration as part of the dealer sales process. You are responsible for ensuring your OC spray declaration is true and accurate. False declarations are an offence and may lead to prosecution.

A list of Declared OC Spray Firearms Dealers is available on the OC spray website.



Using OC spray in a licensed premises is prohibited

Under the *Weapons Control Act 2001* (NT) and the OC Spray Trial conditions, **OC spray must not be used inside any licensed premises.**

Use of OC spray on licensed premises may result in seizure of the spray and prosecution.

This includes:

- Bars, pubs, nightclubs, and restaurants
- Any area where alcohol is served or consumed on-site



OC spray cannot be carried on aircraft

OC spray cannot be carried on an aircraft, either carry-on or in checked luggage. Persons found in possession of OC spray on an aircraft may be liable to Commonwealth offences.



Know when you can use OC spray

A member of the public who is eligible to purchase, possess and carry OC spray may use it in self-defence if:

(A) they believe the use of OC spray is necessary:

- to defend themselves or another person; or
- to prevent or terminate the unlawful imprisonment of themselves or another person; or
- to protect property from unlawful appropriation, destruction, damage or interference; or
- to prevent criminal trespass to any land or premises; or
- to remove from any land or premises a person who is committing criminal trespass; and

(B) use of the OC spray is a reasonable response in the circumstances as the person perceives them.



Storage & safety tips

You must store OC spray safely and securely, taking all reasonable precautions to ensure it is not lost, stolen, or accessed by anyone who is not permitted to have it.

For all other safety tips, please read the product label and instructions carefully.



What are the likely effects of OC spray?



Eyes:

Can Cause burning, stinging, and heavy watering



Skin:

Can cause irritation, redness, or dermatitis



Inhaled:

May trigger coughing, sneezing, chest tightness



What to do if someone is exposed to secondary OC spray?

- Keep them calm
- Breathe normally, effects should dissipate within 10 – 45 minutes
- Seek medical help if irritation continues
- Rinse the affected area with cool water
- Remove contaminated clothing if appropriate
- DO NOT use lotion or ointment on affected area
- DO NOT rub area that was sprayed
- DO NOT drive while affected



What to do if someone is directly exposed to OC spray?

Ensure you read the product information provided by the manufacturer and follow the directions on the product label.

This information is for general use only.

For advice, contact the Poisons Information Centre on **13 11 26** (available 24/7 in Australia)



Eyes:

- Immediately hold the eyelids apart and flush with cool running water
- Continue rinsing for at least 15 minutes or until stinging stops



Skin:

- Remove contaminated clothing
- Rinse the affected skin with cool water, then wash thoroughly with soap and water
- If no soap is available, use cool water alone
- Wash affected clothing before re-use



Inhaled:

- Move the person to fresh air
- Keep them warm and resting
- If breathing is difficult, sit them in a half-upright position to assist



Swallowed:

If the person is conscious:

- Rinse the mouth with cool water (do not swallow the rinse)
- Give small sips of cool water to help reduce irritation
- DO NOT induce vomiting
- DO NOT give anything by mouth if the person is drowsy, has difficulty swallowing, or is unconscious

Always seek medical attention if symptoms persist.