

# KROGER ASKS CUSTOMERS TO STOP OPENLY CARRYING GUNS IN ITS STORES

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Executives at the grocery store giant Kroger are asking its customers to stop openly carrying firearms in their stores, a change in policy that comes after [several mass shootings](#) in the U.S.

"Kroger is respectfully asking that customers no longer openly carry firearms into our stores, other than authorized law enforcement officers," Jessica Adelman, group vice president of corporate affairs, said in a statement Tuesday.

Adelman said the company is encouraging lawmakers to strengthen background checks and recognizes "the growing chorus of Americans who are no longer comfortable with the status quo and who are advocating for concrete and common sense gun reforms."

The news comes after multiple high-profile [mass shootings](#) in the country, including Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; and Odessa, Texas. However, the company did not specifically cite the shootings as its reasoning.

Open carry laws vary state by state, with 31 states allowing people to openly carry handguns without any license or permit, according to the [Giffords Law Center](#). In those states, in some cases, the gun must be unloaded.

Also on Tuesday, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon announced that his stores will discontinue sales of some types of rifle ammunition in the wake of "horrific shootings."



Last year, Kroger stopped selling firearms and ammunition in its Fred Meyers stores in the Pacific Northwest.