



Unarmed security guards do not carry firearms. They may carry other types of nonlethal weapons for protection, such as a baton or pepper spray. In some settings, they may carry a taser. Unarmed guards are generally hired for jobs where an actual threat is relatively low, such as video surveillance positions, retail establishment monitoring positions.

Armed guards usually carry a firearm, which is considered a lethal weapon. They've been through a robust background check and additional training to prepare for the responsibility of their position. These guards are hired for businesses with a greater risk for crime, such as banks, large hospitals, technical firms, or courthouses.

You may benefit from having armed security if:

- Your business has expensive assets such as jewelry and other high-end merchandise
- Your business has large amounts of cash, such as those in the cannabis industry
- You host highly publicized and large events, such as live performances or sporting events
- You need to safely transport valuable items
- Your business deals with sensitive information or large sums of money
- You are located in an area with a high crime rate
- Your business provides accommodations for a large number of people.
- Schools and places of worship.

You may benefit from having unarmed security if:

- Traffic control needs
- Parks, pools, and other recreation areas
- Museums and galleries
- Office buildings
- Parking structures and lots

These settings typically aren't targets for dangerous criminal activity. The biggest concerns for these businesses tend to be vandalism and theft.

An armed security guard requires extensive training and skill development to qualify for their job. They'll often cost more per hour than unarmed guards. Since there is a risk of injury or death in the event that the firearm is used, you'll need to pay for liability insurance if you hire armed guards to protect your business; however, unarmed security guards cost less to hire because they require less training and you won't need liability insurance.