



# ARMOR USE INSTRUCTIONS

Congratulations, you've just purchased some of the most reliable, tested, and trusted armor in the United States. The following are important facts about your armor. For additional help or questions please contact us on our 5-star customer service team at 970-215-6969.

You will notice that your new armor plates are packaged inside shrink-wrap. You do not need to keep the shrink wrap on, however we recommend that you do as it helps protect the label from debris/moisture. On the label you'll find a serial number. Each individual plate has its own unique serial number. We recommend that your serial number(s) immediately be recorded and kept in a secure location similar to the serial number on a weapon. Level III+ body is regulated by ITAR and if your plate is ever stolen and/or used in a crime this serial number can be used to limit your own liability. If your label is ever damaged or becomes unreadable we can issue a replacement label with matching serial number however you must submit a body armor registration within 30 days of receiving your plate(s). Additionally, in order to participate in our "Use it, Don't Lose It" replacement plan a registration must be submitted. The registration is entirely online, takes less than a minute, and requires no sensitive personal information. Visit <http://www.steelops.com/order-online.html> to register.

You will notice a small ~1/8" hole in the coating on the back of your plate. You may even be able to see raw steel inside the hole. This is intentional and does not compromise the integrity of the plate. This hole is a core test sample point and is part of our quality and testing process. We use it to ensure the coating and steel are in compliance on every plate we make before it ships out.

We recommend that you store the carriers with one side strap buckled. To put the vest on simply slide one arm and your head through then find the unbuckled side and connect it. Cinch the side straps down snug so that the plates do not sway when walking. This is the most efficient and easiest deployment method. Leaving both straps undone can create confusion or panic under stress.

Proper positioning of the plates is important. Adjust the shoulder straps so that the top of the front plate sits even with the notch in your collar bone. The back plate should sit even with the 3<sup>rd</sup> vertebrae down from the neck or higher. It will take a few tries to get this right but it is critical to position the plates correctly. Be sure that you consider any gear or equipment that you'll have on in the field under your carrier.

**ALWAYS PERFORM PROPER THREAT ASSESSMENTS!** This is often overlooked and can be a critical factor when encountering a threat. Always try to identify the type of weapon you may be encountering and the nature of the individual using that weapon. This should be incorporated into all operating procedures for active shooter scenarios, barricaded suspects, high-risk traffic stops, or home defense. Knowing your threat allows you to make educated decisions or how to effectively implement your armor and increase survivability.

Your armor requires little maintenance. We recommend you remove your armor from the carrier once a year and inspect the plate. The shelf life for your armor is listed at 25 years from the date of manufacture. Unlike other types of armor, Steel Ops plates do not need to be inspected if they are dropped. These water tight plates can be submerged completely and repeatedly. The optimal ambient temperature for your armor is 65 degrees, however the effectiveness of the coating will remain consistent from 32 to 100 degrees. The steel armor itself will remain effective against penetrations at -20 to 200 degrees. Your plate carrier can be washed alone with mild detergent in cold water. The surface of your armor plate is chemical resistant and can be cleaned using a commercial grade cleaning solution. Avoid cleaning the label with your serial #.

It is important to train with your carrier & armor. Drawing from a holster, shouldering, and manipulation of your weapon can be different when wearing armor. It is imperative that you understand and train for these differences. We recommend at least two training sessions per year with your carrier & plates. Remember to practice proper shooting stance and ensuring that your armor is flat and perpendicular to a threat whenever possible. One of the most common mistakes when wearing armor is using poor tactics and techniques.

**WEAR YOUR ARMOR!** – Always store your armor in an easily accessible location. Putting it under your back seat or locked in a cabinet is not ideal. If your armor is not accessible you likely won't take the time to put it on under stress and armor is no good if you don't wear it! Make it easy to find and put on. See our SR-1 Vehicle Rack by visiting [shop.steelops.com](http://shop.steelops.com) and going to the Carrier Accessories tab!

**THREAT RATINGS:** Any Steel Ops Armor including the XP Plate, Pro Plate, Side Plate, PD1, PD2, and PD3 that has a manufacture date of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 or later has been thoroughly tested and found to be effective against the following rounds:

All handgun calibers of 10mm or less @ 5ft or more (~1300 fps)  
M193 (55gr lead core .223) @ 10ft or more (~3000fps)  
M855 (62gr steel core "Green Tip" 5.56) @ 10ft or more (~2900fps)  
7.62x39 lead or steel core (124gr - Common in AK-47 rifles) @ 10ft or more (~2400 fps)  
M80 (150gr .308 lead core) @ 20ft or more (~2750 fps)  
30-06 (150gr lead core) @ 60ft or more (~2700 fps)  
12ga Slug (1oz rifled or smooth) @ 20ft or more (~1800 fps)  
458 SOCOM (350gr FMJ & 250gr Xtreme Penetrator) @ 15ft or more (~1800 fps)  
\*For calibers not listed please contact our office

Ultra-high-power rifles at close ranges such as 7mm Mag, 300-win-mag, M2 AP (Steel Core 30-06), or 300 Weatherby at velocities of 2800 fps or more can defeat this armor. These are typically hunting rounds and are not common in semi-automatic weapons, thus they are rare in urban combat scenarios. If you are encountering these threats be aware that your armor loses effectiveness exponentially at less than 100ft.

If you ever have questions or concerns regarding any Steel Ops armor product please feel free to contact our support team at 970-215-6969 or via email at [steelops@live.com](mailto:steelops@live.com)