

SAFE FIREARMS STORAGE



31%

The U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated that 31% of unintentional deaths caused by firearms might be prevented by the addition of a child-proof safety lock and a loading indicator to signal that a firearm is loaded.

Responsible firearms owners use their firearms safely and understand the need to prevent their firearms from getting into the wrong hands. They also know that firearm safety should be a priority if we want to better protect our children, prevent avoidable injury, and keep our communities safe.

The safe firearms storage campaign encourages owners to simply lock them up — using available technology and equipment such as gun locks and safes. We teach drivers to buckle up in case of accidents and to lock their cars. The campaign utilizes voices of the community to encourage people to lock up their firearms when not in use to prevent firearms accidents and keep them out of the wrong hands.

visit safefirearmsstorage.org

The Safe Firearms Storage campaign website features tools and resources gun owners need in order to educate themselves about safely storing their firearm in a secure way.



Always clear your firearm before storing it.



Use firearms safety devices, such as trigger or cable locks.



Store ammunition separately in a locked container.



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GUN SAFETY TIPS



The National Shooting Sports Foundation, trade association for the firearms industry, promotes community safety through a variety of programs. These programs include distributing free firearm safety kits that include a gun lock through its Project ChildSafe program in partnership with law enforcement; helping to prevent illegal straw purchases through its Don't Lie for the Other Guy initiative in partnership with ATF; working with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to help reduce suicide by firearm; and providing extensive firearm safety tools and resources at www.nssf.org and www.projectchildsafe.org.

Core Safety Principles of Gun Handling:

- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire
- Treat every gun as if it were loaded

General Gun Safety Tips:

- Help keep guns out of the wrong hands by securely storing firearms when not in use
- Store ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms
- Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting
- Storage options such as gun locks, lock boxes and gun safes are available for all home situations
- Hiding a gun is not secure storage
- Find where to obtain a free firearm safety kit that includes a gun lock at www.projectchildsafe.org
- Suicide accounts for two-thirds of all gun deaths; secure firearms from at-risk persons
- The hunt isn't over until all firearms are unloaded and securely stored
- Talk to your children regularly about gun safety so they know what to do if they encounter an unsecured firearm
- Tell children that if they see a gun to Stop, Don't Touch It, Leave the Area and Tell an Adult



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TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN



It is important to start a dialogue with your children about what to do if they find a gun. The following is suggested language for talking to your kids about firearms.

Guns are very serious. An accident involving a gun can hurt or even kill you or someone you know. Most adults are allowed to own a gun by law, and many have one. This means that even if there isn't a gun in your house, you need to know what to do if you see a gun.

**If you see a gun,
follow these four steps:**

- 1. Stop.**
- 2. Don't touch.**
- 3. Get away.**
- 4. Tell an adult.**

**When you follow these steps, you're
protecting yourself and helping to
keep other people safe.**

55%

of U.S. homes with
children and firearms have
one or more firearms in an
unlocked place.

43%

have guns without a
trigger lock in an unlocked
place.

smartgunlaws.org

Here are some tips about what to do in specific circumstances:

- Walk away and tell a parent if your friend shows you his parent's gun.
- Tell an adult immediately if you see a gun in someone's backpack at school.
- Tell a trusted adult if you hear a girl or boy say that she or he is going to bring a gun to school.
- Follow the four steps if you find a gun in the park by your house.
- If you're not sure why a gun is dangerous, talk to a parent about it.



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SAFE STORAGE OPTIONS



Trigger Lock

A trigger lock can be used to keep someone from being able to pull the trigger. Trigger locks are available in a variety of configurations, from basic key lock options to those that require combinations to open the lock.



Cable Lock

The cable lock can be used on most firearms. The cable is most often placed through the gun barrel, which generally impedes loading and firing.



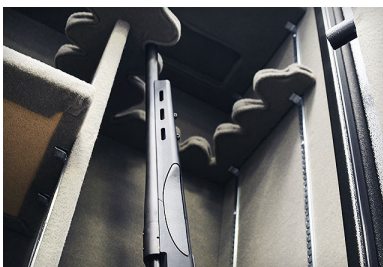
Storage Case

Storage cases come in various sizes and can be used for both storing and locking up a firearm. The case can be locked, but the lock must often be purchased separately.



Lock Box

A lock box is like a small safe that allows you to store your firearm safely and securely via key or combination lock or by a digital keypad, to prevent unauthorized access to the firearm.



Locking Safe

This safe comes in a number of sizes to accommodate long guns, such as rifles and shotguns, and includes spaces for storing handguns as well. Much like the lock box, the gun safe has the option of a combination lock or digital keypad to lock it.



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POP QUIZ



What do you know about firearms safety?

1. Firearms should be unloaded when not in use.

True or False

2. How many homes have firearms stored in a way that makes it easy for them to fall into the wrong hands– children, at-risk youth, potential thieves, and those who intend to harm themselves or others?

a. 7.1 million b. 4.1 million c. 990,000 d. 400,000

3. What is the average number of firearms lost or stolen every year?

a. 200,500 b. 341,000 c. 190,000 d. 440,000

4. What percentage of accidental firearm deaths could have been prevented if there were an addition of two safety devices?

a. 10% b. 31% c. 55% d. 75%

5. Most accidental shooting deaths among children occur in the home.

True or False

6. What age group is most affected by gun violence?

a. 7-14 b. 15-24 c. 25-39 d. over 40

7. How many states penalize gun owners who allow their firearms to fall into the hands of a child?

a. 10 b. 17 c. 23 d. 27

8. Which has the higher number of deaths per year?

a. Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents b. Firearms Accidents

9. Over the last 20 years, the annual number of gun accident deaths has decreased by?

a. 15% b. 50% c. 20% d. 5%



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POP QUIZ: ANSWER KEY



1. True. According to the 10 Rules for Safe Gun Handling by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, firearms should always be unloaded when not in use.
(www.nssf.org/safety/basics/)
2. According to a study by the RAND Corporation using statistics from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1.4 million homes have firearms stored in a way that makes it easy for them to fall into the wrong hands – children, at-risk youth, potential thieves, and those who intend to harm themselves or others.
(www.rand.org/pubs/periodicals/rand-review/issues/rr-12-00/tranquil.html)
3. The average number of firearm thefts that occur every year in the U.S. is 190,000
(ATF, 2012 Summary: Firearms Reported Lost or Stolen, www.atf.gov/resource-center/docs/2012-firearms-reported-lost-and-stolenpdf-1/download)
4. The U.S. General Accounting Office estimated that 31 percent of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented with the addition of 2 devices: a childproof safety lock and a loading indicator.
(The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-91-9)
5. True. Most accidental shooting deaths among children occur in the home. Most of these deaths occur when children are playing with an unsecured loaded gun in their parents' absence.
(The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, <https://injury.research.chop.edu/violence-preventioninitiative/types-violence-involvingyouth/gun-violence/gun-violencefacts-and#.V9mr9DWP-Xc>)
6. According to the National Institute of Justice, teens and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 are most likely to be targeted by gun violence. From 1976 to 2005, 77 percent of homicide victims ages 15-17 died from gun-related injuries. This age group was most at risk for gun violence during this time period.
(www.nij.gov/topics/crime/gunviolence/Pages/affected.aspx, May 19, 2010)
7. There are 27 states that penalize gun owners who allow their firearms to fall into the hands of a child, known as a "Child Access Prevention," or CAP laws.
(Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, <http://smartgunlaws.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/consumerchild-safety/child-access-prevention/>)
8. It's close, but according to the CDC, motor vehicle deaths are higher with 33,804 and firearms deaths coming in with 33,736.
(Center for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics October 7, 2016, www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/injury.htm)
9. According to the National Safety Council the number of deaths have decreased by more than half.
(www.nsc.org/Pages/Home.aspx)



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