

Taking Home a Gun?

Take Responsibility

A Firearm Owner's Quick Reference Card

The following suggestions for safety and security are recommendations only; however, your state or locality may have laws pertaining to firearm possession and storage.

Your firearms should be readily available to you, yet inaccessible or inoperative to others. Storing them safely will protect you, your loved ones, and others from the misuse, theft, or loss of your firearms.

Possessing Firearms

Familiarize yourself with and obey all federal, state, and local laws regarding the purchase, possession, carrying, use, storage, and disposition or sale of firearms.

Visit <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/publications-library> for information on state laws and published ordinances. (Use the search term "state law.")

If you discover any firearm you own is lost or stolen, call your local law enforcement agency immediately to report the loss or theft.

**Always treat every
firearm as if it were loaded.**



COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice



This IS safe storage

Keep guns unloaded and locked up when not in use.

- Unload each firearm before storing.
- Store unloaded firearms in a locked space out of children's reach:
 - Gun safe
 - Lockbox
 - Secure locked cabinet
- Keep ammunition locked in a secure location away from the firearm and away from children.
- If storing a disassembled firearm, parts should be securely stored in separate locations.
- Always recheck that firearms are still unloaded when you remove them from storage.

Gun locks are not a substitute for safe storage, but may be used as an additional safety precaution:

- Trigger locks do not prevent the gun being loaded but block the trigger.
- Cable locks can be defeated with tools and are more effective against accidents than deliberate misuse.

If you **MUST** store your firearm loaded, use trigger or cable locks or other commercially available locking mechanisms.

Always store the key or combination to your gun storage or gun lock separately, and in a place inaccessible to children and unauthorized or at risk persons.

What is NOT secure storage?

Thefts of firearms from vehicles are on the rise:

- A vehicle glove compartment is **NOT** secure storage.
- Locking your vehicle is **NOT** secure storage.

Many accidents occur in the home when unauthorized people discover unsafely store firearms:

- Simply hiding a firearm is **NOT** secure storage.
- A closet or a drawer is **NOT** secure storage.