

SAFE GUN STORAGE

Guns are dangerous. They can hurt or even kill others. Learn what to do when you see a gun, and make sure your parents are practicing safe gun storage at home.



STEPS TO MAKE SURE GUNS ARE SAFE AT HOME

1

Guns should be locked and secured.

2

Ammunition should always be stored safely.

3

If you see a gun that is not locked, don't touch it, and tell an adult.

ARE THERE GUNS IN HOMES YOU VISIT?

Make sure your parents ask if there are guns present and how they are stored before you visit someone's home for the first time.

IF YOU SEE A GUN SOMEWHERE



STOP



DO NOT TOUCH



LEAVE THE AREA



TELL AN ADULT

REMEMBER...

- ★ Guns are dangerous. They can hurt or even kill others.
- ★ All guns should be stored unloaded and locked up.
- ★ If you see a gun somewhere, don't touch it, and go tell an adult.
- ★ Always treat a gun as if it were loaded. It is **NOT** a toy.



Learn more at SafeGunStorageTexas.com

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TALKING TO OTHERS ABOUT GUN SAFETY



TALK TO OTHER PARENTS

About one-third of homes with children have at least one firearm – and many of those guns are both unlocked and loaded. It is important to keep your child away from firearms. But parents are often uncomfortable having a conversation about gun safety with others. Remember, you're just trying to keep your child safe. The best way to do that is to find out whether there is a firearm and how it is being stored in any home where your child goes to play.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- ★ Don't be confrontational. Be respectful.
- ★ Make sure you're completely comfortable with the person's answers before you let your child stay with them.
- ★ There is no harm in asking. There is potentially more harm in not asking.
- ★ Most parents, including gun owners, won't mind your questions at all.

SOME WAYS YOU CAN APPROACH THE SUBJECT

- ★ "My child is very curious and gets into everything I'm worried about what would happen if he came across a gun..."
- ★ "All of us in the PTA (or in our church group, etc.) have committed to making sure our children are safe. So, I've gotten in the habit of asking everyone..."
- ★ "(Name of your child) has never been to your house before; can you tell us more about what it will be like?"
- ★ "We don't let our kids watch too much television or drink too much soda. (List other concerns.) Here are more serious concerns I have..."

TALK TO YOUR KIDS

Children are curious and will have questions about guns. Whether there is a firearm in your home or not, it is important to talk to your child about the rules of gun safety. There may be a situation where they see a gun and you are not around. They should know how to act.

Choose a time and place where they won't be distracted to have the conversation. Consider their age when you are talking to your child about gun safety. Ask them what they already know, and encourage them to ask questions. Don't be afraid to talk to them again to make sure they remember.

TALK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

As important as it is to keep firearms away from the wrong hands, it's also important to talk to your fellow Texans about safe gun storage. You can talk to others and share our resources about gun safety at group or community events, PTA meetings, religious organizations, HOA meetings, or other gatherings. The more people know about how to safely store firearms, the more we can KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

SAFE GUN STORAGE CHECKLIST



SAFELY STORING FIREARMS IS THE DUTY OF EVERY GUN OWNER

Gun safety isn't just knowing how to handle a gun properly—it's also about keeping it from getting into the wrong hands. Whether you keep a gun in your car, home or somewhere else, safely storing it 24/7 is a must in order to protect our children, prevent avoidable injury, and keep our weapons out of the hands of criminals. Together, we can keep our fellow Texans safe!

THE 1-2-3s OF SAFE GUN STORAGE

1

Store unloaded and secured by using a trigger lock, biometric lock, gun case, strong box, gun cabinet or gun safe.

2

Store and lock ammunition safely.

3

Keep others from getting access to stored firearms 24/7. That includes family, friends, children, or other visitors.

ARE YOU PRACTICING SAFE GUN STORAGE? **Make sure you can check ALL the boxes!**

- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked using a firearm safe, lock box, trigger lock or cable lock.
- Ammunition is safely stored.
- Access to stored firearms is restricted from unauthorized persons (family, friends, children, contractors, repair personnel or uninvited persons) at all times – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no matter where the firearm is located.
- All locking devices that use keys are in a place children and other unauthorized users are unaware of.
- I have read and understood the laws around my responsibility and liability, as the owner of the gun, should it be used by an unauthorized person such as a child.
- I have spoken to family members and trusted users asking them to use these safe storage steps. (Consider keeping this checklist near where you store your guns!)
- When my firearm is taken outside of my home (e.g., in a car), it must still be stored safely. Safe storage of firearms is practiced at all times.



**A HIDDEN
FIREARM
IS NOT A
SAFELY
STORED
FIREARM**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
HOW YOU CAN HELP
KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!**

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

SAFE GUN STORAGE DEVICES



CHOOSE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU

Protecting all Texans means knowing how to stop weapons from reaching the wrong hands. No matter where you keep your gun, it needs to be stored safely when you're finished using it. There are many choices when it comes to safe gun storage. It all depends on the type of firearm, your living situation, and cost.



CABLE LOCK

A cable lock blocks the barrel of the firearm from locking into position to prevent firing of the weapon. They are available with a key or combination lock.

- ★ Affordable
- ★ Widely available



TRIGGER LOCK

A trigger lock clamps down around the trigger and trigger guard to prevent the trigger from being pulled. They are available with a key or combination lock.

- ★ Affordable
- ★ Widely available



BIOMETRIC LOCK

A type of trigger lock, the biometric lock is customized for you and your firearm. It uses fingerprint technology to allow access.

- ★ Quick access in case of emergency
- ★ Only authorized user(s) will be able to handle the gun



GUN CASE

A gun case is a portable firearm storage case that is made of plastic. An external lock can be added for extra security.

- ★ Easily transported
- ★ Protects firearm from damage



STRONG BOX

A strong box is a small safe designed to store a single or multiple firearms. They are accessible with key, code, or fingerprint technology. Most are designed to be mountable to a vertical surface.

- ★ Portable
- ★ More durable than gun cases
- ★ Difficult to steal if permanently mounted to a vertical surface
- ★ Can store multiple firearms



GUN CABINETS

A gun cabinet can store multiple firearms. They're more like furniture and are often crafted of wood and glass to display guns. Most will have a locking feature.

- ★ Usually less expensive than a gun safe
- ★ Aesthetically pleasing



GUN SAFE/VAULT

The most secure option, a gun safe can store multiple firearms and ammunition. They are usually made from steel and heavy. It is recommended they be secured to prevent them from falling over. They can be opened by a key, code, or fingerprint technology.

- ★ Difficult to steal
- ★ Can store multiple devices and other personal items
- ★ Keeps firearms out of sight
- ★ Most are fire-resistant

The Texas Department of Public Safety does not endorse any type or manufacturer of gun safes or locks

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