

GUN SAFETY

IN THE HOME

Safe Storage of Firearms for Self Protection

- If you decide to own a firearm for purposes of protection, you must be certain that you take all precautions to keep it secure. It does not make sense to own a gun for protection and then put your family at risk by not keeping it secure.
- You must always be sure to keep firearms secured in a location that is not accessible to children or anyone who should not have access to it. Hiding a loaded firearm is not sufficient to keep it away from them.

General Safety Tips

- Read the owner's manual instructions so you know how to care for and use your firearm properly.
- Always treat your firearm as if it were loaded and instruct others in your home to do the same.
- Make sure you know the laws about owning firearms in your community, city and state.
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Never allow children to play with firearms.
- Keep your fingers off the trigger.
- Always keep your firearm unloaded when not in use.
- Always be certain you are in control of your firearm.
- Be very careful about who has access to your firearm.
- If you need to temporarily remove your firearm from your home for any reason, talk with someone you trust about keeping your firearms for you until you are ready to take them back and assume full responsibility for them.

Safe Storage of Sporting Firearms

- Prior to leaving any shooting range/facility, check to assure the firearm is unloaded before returning home with it. Upon returning home, check it again to make sure it is not loaded. Store it immediately in a secure location, away from children!
- Consider using a gun lock to make the firearm inoperable when you are not using it. A gun lock should not be the only way you secure your firearm as it can be broken.
- Even if you know the firearm is unloaded, always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Always clean your firearm safely and store it properly. Keep it secured (locked). Ammunition should be stored (locked) in a separate location.
- If your firearm is disassembled, parts should be stored securely in separate locations.

Only you can make sure your firearms are safe!

- Teach your children and anyone living in your home about firearm safety.
- Make sure your children know to never touch a firearm they find, whether in your home or anywhere else. Share your expectation that, if they ever find a firearm, they will not touch it and will immediately tell a responsible adult.

 For more information about gun safety, contact the National Shooting Sports Foundation at www.nssf.org and Project ChildSafe at www.projectchildsafe.org.

VA



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