

SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES



What is safe firearm storage?

It's keeping all guns unloaded and locked, and keeping ammunition in a separate location, also locked.

Why does it matter?

Every day in the U.S., nearly 100 people die of gunshot wounds, including 62 suicides. Suicide is often impulsive, with 24 percent of attempts occurring within five minutes of a decision. Each year in the U.S., 150 children under 13 years of age accidentally kill themselves or another child with guns. Most of these deaths involve guns from the children's own homes. By 2 years of age, toddlers have the strength and dexterity to pull a trigger and fire a gun.

Safe storage is one of the simplest ways to prevent gun violence and save lives.

What locks should I use?

Every gun should be fitted with a cable lock, below left, or trigger lock, below right, to prevent it from being fired. Most of these cost less than \$10 and every new gun comes with a lock. Be sure to unload the gun first — attempting to put a lock on a loaded gun could cause it to fire.



Place locked guns in a safe or in a padlocked, hard-sided case. If possible, choose a safe that is certified by the California Department of Justice. For more on selecting a gun safe, visit <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/gunSAFE>



Don't share the combination! Store keys in a key safe or other secure location.

What if I keep a loaded gun for self defense?

You still can and should lock up your gun. A biometric lock box opens in less than one second with the swipe of a finger. The box pictured below costs less than \$200 and can be programmed to recognize multiple people's prints.



What else do I need to know?

Give special thought to any children in the home. A cable lock may be enough to keep a toddler safe but a combination safe is a better choice in a home with teens.

If anyone in the home is suicidal, locks are not enough — remove all firearms from the home.

Keep guns secured even when transporting them. Guns in cars must be stored safely, too.

No gun lock is completely foolproof.

**Responsible gun owners always make gun safety a priority —
in the field, on the range, in the car, and in the home.
No exceptions.**

