

Winter 2021

Safe Firearm Storage



ADVICE FROM EXPERIENCED FIREARM OWNERS AND MILITARY MEMBERS

Given the increase in firearm purchasing throughout 2020, we asked experienced firearm owners and military members to share their perspectives and advice regarding safe storage practices with other gun owners.

Thank you to the over 400 firearm owners who participated in this project! We appreciate your time and willingness to share.

Developed by The Suicide and Emotion Dysregulation Laboratory

The most frequent responses to...

"What does safe storage of a firearm mean to you?"



Limit access to **unauthorized people**



Protect firearm from natural effects, such as heat, humidity, and natural disasters



Every firearm owner has **different storage needs** depending on their home situation

"Firearm storage means storing a firearm in such a way that it is **prohibitively difficult for the average person to gain access** to a weapon in order to hurt themselves or others. "

- Experienced Firearm Owner of 4 years



The most frequent responses to...

"Why is it important to store a firearm safely?"



To **prevent** violence, accidents, and suicide



The owner of the firearm is **responsible and liable** for damage and loss of life that occurs with their firearms



To **protect children** from hurting themselves or someone else

"Firearms are tools that can create life altering effects, intentionally or accidentally, in a matter of seconds. **Safe storage is the wise and simple thing to do to prevent severe, unwanted outcomes.**"

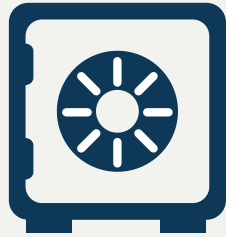
- Experienced Firearm Owner

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Quotes

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What is safe storage?



"...secured in a way that it **cannot be accessed by someone who does not need to have access.**"

- Firearm Owner



"The **proper education** of firearm safety **prevents accidents, and irresponsible behavior.**"

- Firearm Owner

Why is it important?



"To **prevent suicides and accidents.**"

- Experienced Firearm Owner of 20 years & Military Member



"If a **child, thief, or mentally ill individual** is able to access your firearms **you are partly responsible for what happens with it.**"

- Firearm Owner & Military Member

