

Recommended Storage Practices



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 firearm owners.

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

The most frequent responses to...

"What storage method would you recommend to a new firearm owner?"



Many factors (e.g., protective vs. non-protective ownership, children, roommates, financial cost, type of gun) may play a role in determining what firearm storage practice is best for your needs and situation



Safe or Lockbox

Heavy, anchored, fireproof, waterproof safes, biometric, manual locking mechanism



Locking mechanism

Trigger, chamber, or cable locks



Unloaded, Separate from Ammunition



Combination of storage methods



Hidden/Concealed, Out of Reach



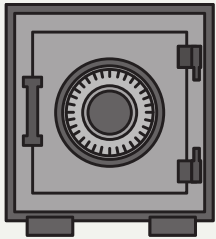
Education/Safety Course

"I recommend **some form of a safe** that **fits the needs of the owner**. Traditional, large safes could be a great option. Smaller safes are also excellent for handguns, require less space, and are easier to move. Many types of book-sized, biometric safes are available for those wanting a **quickly accessible option** in a nightstand or vehicle. **A safe doesn't have to be 'bomb-proof' to prevent the most common scenarios: a curious child, an inebriated friend, or simple theft.**" - *Firearm Owner*

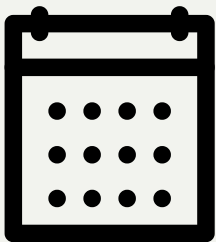


The most frequent responses to...

"How do you store your firearm?"



Among surveyed firearm owners **56%** **reported using a safe** at least some of the time to store at least one of their firearms



Firearm owners who reported using a safe had **owned firearms** on average for **14.28 years**



11% of surveyed firearm owners reported using a **biometric lock box** to store at least one of their firearms

"I have a toddler in my home so **all of my firearms** are in either a **large gun safe or a bedside gun safe.**"
- *Experienced Firearm Owner*



Quotes



What storage method would you recommend to a new firearm owner?

"Purchase a **safe**. If that option is not possible, **disassemble and store**. If impractical, **trigger lock**." - *Firearm Owner*

"I would recommend them **take classes and know their firearm inside and out**. There is a factor of respect I think people need to understand. It is a deadly weapon and people **need to understand the gravity of being a gun owner**. If they had a family/child then I would recommend a **biometric safe** (good tamper proof safes are hard to come by)..." - *Firearm Owner*



How do you store your firearm?

"I store my firearms in a **locked gun cabinet**. I have a history of **depression**, so I drilled a hole in the top of the cabinet. If I ever **experience the initial stages of severe depression, I drop my copy of the key into the the hole**. A family member has a copy to come unlock and **remove the guns from my home, until I improve**." - *Firearm Owner*

"Multiple locks, fireproof safe, or at **the very least behind x2 locks**, such as a locked glove box in a locked vehicle. " - *Firearm Owner*