

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Control the gun muzzle at all times.
3. Store guns unloaded and with actions open.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that only the proper ammunition is carried with every gun in use.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger, and always know what lies beyond the target.
6. Never point a gun at anything you don't want to shoot.
7. Never climb a fence or tree or cross a ditch or other obstacle with a loaded gun; and never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. Never shoot at water or a flat, hard surface; and always be sure your back-stop is adequate.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately, out of reach of people who are unfamiliar with safe gun handling.
10. Never handle a firearm or operate a vehicle while you are affected by alcohol or drugs.



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FIREARMS SAFETY FOR PARENTS




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WHY TEACH YOUR CHILD GUN SAFETY?

As a parent probably your biggest concern is the safety of your children. Hopefully you realize that accidents don't always happen to the other guy. Each year at least 250 children in the U.S. are killed in firearms accidents, with thousands of others being injured. By educating yourself and your child, you may prevent your child from being one of the statistics. Even if you don't own a gun, chances are that your child will come in contact with one. Statistics show that firearms are present in at least one-half of the homes in America.

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD YOU TEACH YOUR CHILD GUN SAFETY?

There is not a set age at which children should be taught gun safety. Only you know the developmental state of your child. Some possible indicators would be when your child starts acting out "gun play" or when your child shows a curiosity about guns. If your child has a cap gun, water gun, or other toy guns, it's not too soon to start teaching them proper gun safety. If your child begins asking about what he sees on TV, he or she is probably curious enough to investigate real guns.

HOW TO START YOUR OWN HOME SAFETY PROGRAM

You should start by explaining to your child that only adults should handle guns. Tell your child that the only time he/she can handle a gun is with adult supervision or adult permission. You should also prepare your child for the unforeseeable chance that they may come across a gun when there isn't an adult present. Tell your child to follow the following three steps whenever they find an unattended firearm:

1. Stop/Don't Touch!

This is the most important step for your child to understand. It is imperative that your child resists the natural temptation to pick the gun up. This might be a good opportunity to explain to your child that unlike toy guns, real guns can be very dangerous.

2. Leave the Area

Telling your child to leave the area will help prevent them from picking the gun up. Explain to them that this might mean leaving the room, building, playground, park, etc.

3. Tell An Adult

Impress upon your child that an adult needs to take control of the situation immediately. This will protect other children as well. Tell your child that they need to tell you, their teacher, the police or any other responsible adult about what they found.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU OWN A GUN

Store your firearms UNLOADED and in a LOCKED compartment. Hide the keys in a separate and secure location.

Store your ammunition in a different location than your firearm.

Buy a trigger lock for your firearm. This is a cheaper alternative than a locked gun cabinet.

After unloading your firearm, take the bolt or magazine out of the gun and store it separately.

Revolvers can be secured by opening a cylinder and placing a lock around the top strap.

Semi-automatic pistols can be secured by removing the slide from the frame.

Remember – just because you keep a firearm in a high place doesn't mean a child can't stand on something to get it.

THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO IF YOU OWN A GUN

Don't keep a gun loaded in the house.

Don't keep a gun in a night stand drawer or under a pillow.

Don't store a firearm with other valuables. This helps eliminate the potential for a thief to end up with it.