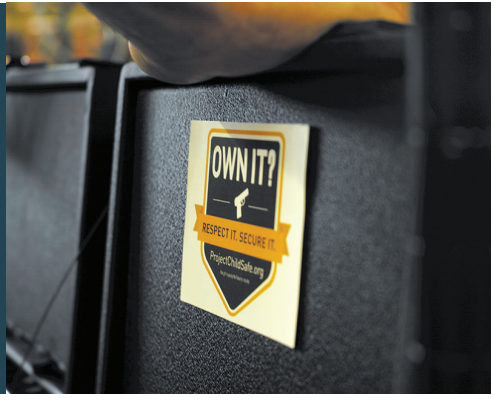
A GUIDE TO RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP, SAFE HANDLING AND SECURE STORAGE

A nationwide program to help ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage, developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation®, the trade association for the firearm industry.

En español available at projectchildsafe.org.



This symbol indicates important safety warning. Read lock installation instructions on pages 2 & 3 carefully.

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CABLE-STYLE GUN LOCK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

This lock consists of an armored steel cable with one end permanently secured to a keyed padlock. When lock is properly installed, the firearm is unloaded and the lock prevents the firearm's action from closing. **This safety device meets the requirements of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the California Department of Justice.**

The cable-style lock supplied in this Project ChildSafe® safety kit should be used in addition to, and not as a substitute for, safe firearm handling and storage methods. As a firearm owner, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to know how to safely handle and securely store your firearms.

Please read the Project ChildSafe safety booklet included in this kit and your firearm's owner's manual for safe handling and storage methods.

GUN LOCK SAFETY TIPS

- Keep cable and lock outside of trigger guard at all times.
- Always push cable into padlock and turn key until securely locked. After removing key, tug on cable to ensure connection is secure.
- Store key to the gun lock and the firearm separately. Be sure to store key in a location inaccessible to unauthorized persons, particularly children.
- Do not work the firearm's action with the lock in place. This may damage the lock and/or the firearm.
- If the lock's protective coating becomes damaged or separated from the steel cable or the lock face, replace the lock.

ABOUT LOCKING DEVICES: No single lock will fit all firearms. The lock supplied in this Project ChildSafe safety kit will fit the actions of many commonly owned firearms (see installation instructions below). If the Project ChildSafe lock does not fit your firearm, we urge you to contact the manufacturer of your firearm to find out the type of lock recommended for it. A local firearm retailer or law enforcement agency can help you as well. Project ChildSafe urges you to find the appropriate locking device for your firearm so you can securely store your firearm in your home.

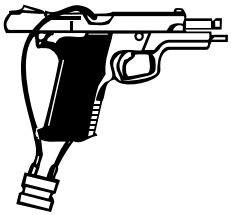
REMEMBER: No firearm's safety or lock can be a substitute for safe, careful gun handling and storage. This lock is intended to discourage unauthorized access to a firearm, particularly by young children. This lock may be defeated by a determined individual using tools or other aggressive means and may not prevent intentional misuse of a firearm.

WARNING: Before installing this or any gun lock, be sure the firearm is completely UNLOADED and the safety is on SAFE. When installing the lock, keep your finger off the trigger and always have the firearm pointing in a safe direction.

Below are examples of lock installation procedures on common firearm actions.

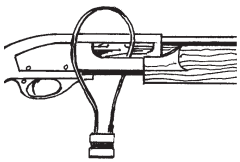
TO UNLOCK: Turn key clockwise. Remove loose end of cable from padlock and thread it through UNLOADED firearm as explained and shown below. TO LOCK: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.

Autoloading Pistols



With the slide locked back and magazine removed, insert the cable through the ejection port and out the magazine well. **To lock: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.**

Autoloading and pump-action shotguns



With the bolt in the locked open position, insert the cable through the ejection port and out the loading port. **To lock: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.**

Revolvers

With the cylinder open, insert the cable through the barrel, or through an empty cylinder chamber. **To lock: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.**

Bolt Action Rifles

Open the action (lock it open if your firearm has a bolt hold-open device) and remove the magazine. Insert the cable through the ejection port and out the magazine well. **To lock: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.**

OR

Remove the bolt from the rifle. Insert the cable through the ejection port and out through the end of the receiver assembly. **To lock: With key turned to farthest clockwise position, insert loose end of cable into padlock. Turn key counterclockwise and remove key. Check that cable is secure.**

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For more information about Project ChildSafe's *Own It? Respect It. Secure It.* campaign and for helpful resources on firearm safety visit **projectchildsafe.org.**

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As a firearm owner, it is your responsibility to know how to properly handle any firearm you own and also to know how to secure your firearm(s) in a safe manner in your home. Project ChildSafe® has been created to help you accomplish these very important safety goals.

If for any reason you feel uncomfortable with or are unable to accept these responsibilities, we strongly urge you not to own a firearm.

HANDLING FIREARMS IN A SAFE MANNER

Firearm safety begins with understanding and carefully following all the rules of safe gun handling.

Before handling any firearm, you should be familiar with the following safety procedures:

☑ Be sure you know how the firearm operates. Not all firearms are the same. Know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the gun or from the gun's magazine. The manufacturer's name and location are on every gun – write them for free safety and operating instructions.

☑ Always keep a gun pointed in a safe direction, even when handling an unloaded gun. A "safe direction" means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to fire it would not result in an injury.

☑ Never assume that a firearm is unloaded. Whenever you pick up a gun, the first thing you should do is to point it in a safe direction and make *sure* it is unloaded. Open the action and look into the chamber(s), which should be clear of ammunition. If the gun has a magazine, carefully remove it *before* opening the action. Then open the action to be sure the chamber is clear of ammunition.

☑ Always keep your finger off the trigger, even when handling an unloaded gun. When handling a gun, rest your finger outside the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. The only time you should touch the trigger is when you are at a shooting range or other safe shooting location and you are actually ready to fire.

Remember, nearly all firearm accidents in the home can be prevented simply by making sure that guns are kept unloaded and locked up when not in use, with ammunition secured in a separate location.

STORING FIREARMS
IN A SAFE MANNER

As a firearm owner, you must make absolutely sure that guns in your home are stored so that they are not accessible to children or other unauthorized persons. Hiding a gun in a closet, drawer or similar location is *not* safe storage. Children are extremely curious and might find a gun in your home that you thought was safely hidden or inaccessible.

As with most aspects of home safety, your objective as a firearm owner is to put in place a series of simple precautions (multiple safeguards) that together help create a secure environment for firearms in the home. Each of these precautions is designed to provide an additional barrier against unauthorized use.

Key guidelines for safe storage include:

☑ Unloaded firearms should be stored in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case. Be sure to place a locked storage case in a location inaccessible to children.

☑ Unloaded firearms can also be secured with a gun locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. A gun lock should be used as an additional safety precaution and not as a substitute for secure storage. If firearms are disassembled, parts should be securely stored in separate locations.

☑ Store ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.

☑ Always re-check firearms carefully and completely to be sure that they are “still” unloaded when you remove them from storage. Accidents could occur if a family member has loaned or borrowed a gun and then carelessly returned it to storage while it was still loaded.

FIREARMS KEPT FOR HOME SECURITY

The decision to maintain a firearm in the home for self-protection is a serious, personal matter. Unlike passive safety devices, such as alarm systems, firearms used for home protection require significantly more involvement by the owner. Any added safety benefit that may be derived from a firearm depends in large measure on the owner's commitment to appropriate training and a clear understanding of safe handling and storage rules. Are your security concerns realistic and consistent with local crime rates? Do other adults in your household support the decision to maintain a gun in the home? If they will have access to the firearm, will they join you in a firearm training and safety program? What precautions will be practiced to safeguard children? Do risk factors such as drug and alcohol abuse exist within your household? In addition, issues such as individual temperament, reaction to emergency situation and specific family circumstances should also enter in the decision.

If you must have quick access to a loaded firearm in your home, you need to take special safety measures. Keeping a gun to defend your family makes no sense if that same gun puts your family members or visitors to your home at risk. Home firearm accidents can occur when unauthorized individuals – often visitors – discover loaded firearms that were carelessly left out in the open.

If you choose to keep a firearm for home security, your objective should be to create a situation in which the firearm is readily available to you, yet inaccessible or inoperative to others. Special lockable cases that can be quickly opened only by authorized individuals are options to consider.

You must exercise full control and supervision over a loaded gun at all times. This means the gun must be unloaded and placed in secure storage whenever you leave the gun in your home or elsewhere. Secure ammunition separately.

Your most important responsibility is ensuring that unsupervised children cannot encounter loaded firearms. The precautions you take must be completely effective. Anything less invites tragedy and is a serious violation of your responsibility as a gun owner.

DETERRING ACCESS BY AT-RISK AND PROHIBITED PERSONS

Firearm owners who live with a person who is at risk or legally prohibited from possessing a firearm may wish to consider upgrading their storage levels to better meet their safe-storage responsibilities. You must be absolutely certain that no firearm can be accessed by an at-risk or prohibited person. Simply hiding a firearm is not secure storage and poses a risk.

Persons considered to be at risk may include those with symptoms or history of treatment for mental illness, increasing patterns of alcohol/substance abuse, isolation or violent behaviors or recent experience with a major life event—such as divorce, job loss or financial trouble. It also can be someone who you, the firearm owner, have good reason to believe is likely to do harm to themselves or others.

A person is legally prohibited from possessing a firearm if he or she is a convicted felon, fugitive from justice, unlawful user of any controlled substance, illegal alien, dishonorably discharged from the military, subject to a court restraining order, has been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence, has renounced U.S. citizenship, or who has been deemed mentally incompetent ("a mental defective") by a court or involuntarily hospitalized for psychiatric care.

In this situation, consider storing firearms not in use in a locked gun safe or other appropriate security device that is resistant to tampering by an adult. If for any reason you as a firearm owner feel uncomfortable with or are unable to accept these safe-storage responsibilities given the circumstance of having an at-risk or prohibited person living with you, we strongly urge you not to own a firearm.

Temporary off-site storage is an option. Such storage can be effective, for example, if an individual living with you is in emotional crisis or exhibits significant behavior change. Friends who are gun owners might offer storage, where allowed by law. Your local firearm retailer may know of options for off-site firearm storage in your area.

Secure storage options for gun owners living with at-risk or prohibited persons include a locked gun safe, gun cabinet, lock box or storage case. For added security, portable storage devices can be secured to a wall or the floor, or both, to prevent removal. In addition to locked storage, unloaded firearms can be secured with a gun-locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. Firearms can also be disassembled, with parts securely

stored in separate locations. Please review fully the sections in this booklet titled “Storing Firearms in a Safe Manner” and “Options for Securely Storing Firearms.”

Learn more about at-risk behavior and find resources at the National Institute of Mental Health website: **nimh.nih.gov**. As a family member or friend, you may be in a position to encourage a person in distress to seek assistance from a qualified provider.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation has partnered with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to increase education about firearms and suicide prevention. Learn more about the AFSP-NSSF Suicide Prevention Program and NSSF’s efforts with Veterans Affairs at **nssf.org/safety/suicide-prevention**.

Learn more about persons who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives website: **atf.gov/firearms/identify-prohibited-persons.**

If you or someone is in crisis, reach out to any of these resources:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **Call 988** or **1-800-273-8255**
- Crisis Text Line: Text **TALK** to **741741**
- Lifeline Chat: Suicide Prevention **lifeline.org/chat**
- Emergency Response: **Call 911 or contact your local emergency room**
- Veterans **call 988** and **press 1**

GENERAL HOME FIREARM SAFETY TIPS

- Keep all firearms locked in a safe place, away from children and other unauthorized persons, when not in use.
- Store ammunition under lock and key, separately from firearms.
- Read and understand the owner’s manual that came with your firearm.
- Follow safe gun handling practices: keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it were loaded; keep fingers off the trigger; and keep the firearm unloaded when not in use.

NSSF
The Firearm Industry Trade Association

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www.nssf.org/safety

OPTIONS FOR SECURELY STORING FIREARMS

METHOD	FEATURES	COMMENTS
Cable Lock	Widely available, can be used on most firearms, can also be used to lock a gun to a solid object.	Be sure to install according to directions, not around trigger; keys and combinations must be kept away from children; cable can be cut.
Trigger Lock	Widely available, can block trigger but does not prevent loading.	Caution: should never be used on a loaded gun because it can cause the gun to fire under certain circumstances; can't be used on lever-action firearms; keys and combinations must be kept away from children and other unauthorized persons.
Lock Box (Mechanical & Electronic)	Conceals and protects guns.	Provides secure storage for loaded or unloaded firearm, but in electronic models batteries will need replacement; depending on size, locked box can be stolen; keys and combinations must be kept away from children and other unauthorized persons.
Gun Safe	Most secure storage for multiple guns.	Certain models are heavy, expensive; keys and combination must be kept away from children and other unauthorized persons.
Disassembling Gun	Creates a condition where gun cannot be fired.	Not practical with all guns; requires knowledge of correct assembly and disassembly procedures; may lose the parts.

A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Young people are naturally curious about firearms and, as a result, may be tempted to "play" with a firearm they find. Make sure young people in your home are aware of and understand the safety guidelines described below.

1. Don't go looking for guns in your house or a friend's house. Don't let other kids look for guns in your house.
2. If you find a gun in your house – or anywhere else – STOP! Leave it alone. Don't touch it. Don't let anyone else touch it. Leave the area and be sure to tell an adult at once.
3. Even if a gun looks like a toy, don't touch it. Some real guns might look like toy guns, so don't take a chance. Leave the area and immediately tell an adult.

REMEMBER...
IF YOU FIND A GUN,
DON'T PICK IT UP.
JUST LEAVE IT ALONE,
AND GO TELL AN
ADULT RIGHT AWAY!

To help your children learn how to stay safe when firearms are present, have them watch Not Cool, Kyle and Molly's Mischief featuring McGruff the Crime Dog!

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OWN IT?
RESPECT IT. SECURE IT.®
ProjectChildSafe.org
Brought to you by the Firearms Industry

Share this **"Own It? Respect It. Secure It."** badge on your social media pages, websites and blogs to remind gun owners to securely store their firearms when not in use and to show your support for Project ChildSafe.

projectchildsafe.org/get-involved/spread-the-message

For more information about Project ChildSafe's **Own It? Respect It. Secure It**. campaign and for educational resources on firearm safety visit **projectchildsafe.org**.

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