

Firearm Safe Storage

Today's youth are navigating social and emotional development, the complexities of the digital world, discrimination, and challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. For many young people, these issues can contribute to mental and emotional distress. Access to unsecured firearms for youth at risk can result in suicide, serious injury, or violence towards others.

DID YOU KNOW?

22%

From 2021 to 2022, firearm sales in Maryland rose by 22%.

NICS Firearm Checks (2021-2022)

29%

In Maryland, from 2017 to 2021, firearms were used in 29% of suicides among youth ages 10-19.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023)

4x

The number of Marylanders under 18 wounded in nonfatal shootings quadrupled from 2013 to 2022.

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (2023)

63%

According to the Gun Violence Archive, mass shootings increased from 2018 to 2022 by 63%.

Gun Violence Archive (2023)

An unsecured firearm can put everyone in a household at risk, not just the firearm owner. The decision to harm oneself or others can happen in a matter of minutes. Review your firearm storage practices, learn the signs of a crisis, and educate members of your household and community.

SAFELY STORE YOUR FIREARMS



- Store and lock firearms **unloaded**.
- Store and lock ammunition **separately from every firearm, every time**.
- Make sure **keys and combinations are not accessible** to minors or anyone at risk of violence against themselves or others.
- If someone is in crisis in the household, **temporarily remove firearms** from your home.
- **Avoid storing firearms unattended in vehicles** to prevent theft.

It's the Law.

GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Adults should be aware that minors could discover a firearm when a parent or another adult is not present. Youth should know the following rules:

- 1 Stop**
If you find or see a firearm, stop what you are doing.
- 2 Don't Touch**
NEVER touch a firearm you may find or see. Resist curiosity and do not take the firearm to an adult.
- 3 Leave the Area**
Immediately leave the area, never taking a firearm or trying to stop someone from using a firearm.
- 4 Tell an Adult**
Tell an adult about encountering a firearm, including if other kids are shooting or playing with firearms.

SAFE STORAGE OPTIONS

There are many safe storage choices available. Explore options and find one that's right for you!

Locking Devices



Cable Lock (Free-\$50)

Device that blocks chamber to prevent firing. Typically requires key or combination to unlock, usable on most firearms. Good to prevent children from access.

Trigger Lock (\$5-\$50)

Two-piece lock, fits over trigger guard. Blocks trigger but does not prevent loading. Typically requires key or combination to unlock. Should not be used on loaded firearm (can still be fired). Not usable on lever-action firearms.

Locking Boxes



Lock Box (\$25-\$350)

Small safe to store handguns/small firearms. Typically requires key, combination, or fingerprint to unlock. Lock boxes can be permanently mounted to prevent theft.

Safe (\$100-\$2,500)

Stores variety of firearms/other valuables. Typically requires key, combination, or fingerprint to unlock. Most secure option for multiple firearms, and for theft prevention.

Apex Guardian

Maryland Firearm Home Safety Checklist

- Store Unloaded: Ensure all firearms are stored unloaded.
- Lock It Up: Use a gun safe, lockbox, or trigger lock/cable lock to secure all firearms.
- Separate Ammunition: Store ammunition in a separate locked location.
- Secure Keys/Combinations: Ensure keys and combinations are not accessible to children, teens, or unauthorized individuals.
- Verify Storage: Check that all guns are locked every time they are not in your direct control.
- Educate Children: Teach children never to touch a gun, to leave the area, and to tell an adult if they see one.
- Check Other Homes: Ask friends, neighbors, and relatives about their storage practices before your child visits.
- Temporary Removal: Consider removing firearms from the home if someone is in crisis or at risk of harming themselves or others.
- Avoid Vehicle Storage: Do not leave firearms unattended in vehicles to prevent theft.