Family Guide to Home Firearm Safety

There are a number of important safety considerations for parents, guardians, grandparents, or anyone who has children or teens visit their home in regards to firearms. Children and teens are at higher risk of suicide, unintentional injury or death, or homicide when firearms are present in the home. In particular, teens often struggle with depression or other mental health issues, which may also increase the risk of firearm injury. Learn the facts about firearm safety and measures you can take to keep your family safe.

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<th>1 in 3 U.S. homes with children under 18 has a firearm.¹</th>
<th>Over 19,000 children and teens* are injured or killed by firearms each year.³</th>
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<td>45% of these homes have an unlocked firearm.¹</td>
<td>That equals 148 children or youth a day.³</td>
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<th>3 in 4 children age 5 to 14 know where firearms are kept in their home.²</th>
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<th>Unintentional shootings account for 12% of all firearm deaths in children under 15.³</th>
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<td>Children as young as 3 years old are strong enough to fire a handgun.⁴</td>
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| In 2 out of 3 cases when a child or youth used a family member’s firearm to commit suicide, the firearm was kept unlocked.⁵ |

* Youth, children and teens are defined as ages 0-19 unless otherwise defined
What are safe storage options?

If there are guns in your home, make sure all guns are stored unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately.

**Take Apart Firearm.**

If you are in crisis, or know someone who is struggling or in a crisis:
Call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 to speak with a crisis counselor.

**Lock Box.**
Store ammunition separately. Only adults should have access.
($20–$100+)

**Cable Lock.**
Do not install around the trigger.
May be available free from local police. Go to projectchildsafe.org/safety/get-a-safety-kit for more information.
($7–$20)

**Trigger Lock.**
Do not use on a loaded gun.
($6–$35)

**Gun Safe.**
Store ammunition separately.
($80+)

**If you are in crisis, or know someone who is struggling or in a crisis:**

Call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 to speak with a crisis counselor.

**Sources**