Firearms Safety Tips

Child Safety
The National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program [http://www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie](http://www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie) is designed to teach young children that are not ready to handle firearms. Here are simple steps you can give them to follow if they find a gun:

**STOP!**
**Don’t Touch.**
**Leave the Area.**
**Tell an Adult.**

Safe Storage
- Keep all guns and ammunition out of the reach of children, untrained adults, and those who would use them improperly.
- Always keep firearms locked in a Gun Safe and utilize trigger or cable locks.
- Keep the keys to gun safes and trigger locks on your person and out of the reach of those who should not have access to them.
- Store your guns unloaded and with the safety on.
- Keep the guns dry, cleaned, and oiled while in storage.
- Store guns and ammunition in a dry cool place and away from heat and fire.

Useful Links
- [US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Interactive Firearms Safety Techniques site](https://safety.army.mil/Firearm-Safety)
- [Links to State Hunter Education Sites](http://www.hunter-ed.com/)

References
- [http://home.nra.org](http://home.nra.org)

*This brochure is not intended as a complete course in gun safety and is not a substitute for formal, qualified instruction in the handling, use, or storage of firearms. The guidelines herein should be considered options to minimize the chance of an accident occurring.*
Step-By-Step Guide To Purchasing A Firearm

Step 1: Follow all employee instructions for handling firearms as safety is our top priority.
- Only one firearm out at counter per customer.
- Handle the firearm as if it was loaded and point in a safe direction.

Step 2: Verify that you meet the age requirements for purchasing firearms and ammunition.
- **Rifles and Shotguns.** You must be 18 years of age to purchase a rifle or shotgun and 21 to purchase a pistol-grip shotgun.
- **Handguns.** You must be at least 21 years of age and a resident of the state where you purchase the handgun.
- **Ammunition.** You must be at least 21 years of age to purchase handgun ammunition.

Step 3: Provide Proper Identification to establish proof of age and address.

Step 4: Complete a Federal Firearm Transaction Record-Form 4473.
- This document requires you to provide information regarding your firearms purchase, and it records the results of your Federal background check.

Step 5: Pass the National Instant Background check (NICS) or equivalent state system.

NICS will provide these responses:
- **Proceed.** Response indicates that the transfer or sale of firearm can proceed.
- **Delay.** NICS needs additional time to complete the background check. You may contact the NICS to inquire about the reason for the delay.
- **Denied.** This means you did not pass the background check and the store cannot transfer the firearm. You can request, in writing, to NICS, for the explanation of the denial.

Step 6: Complete Installation-specific requirements as directed by Command (may vary by Installation).

Step 7: Satisfy any local or state requirement.

Step 8: Once Steps 1-7 have been satisfied, then the associate will complete the transaction and the firearm will be turned over to you.

Firearms Safety Tips

Gun safety is a vital aspect of gun ownership. Apply these safety tips to all guns, regardless of power or caliber. Whether you are handling a BB gun or a high-powered rifle, your emphasis should always be on safety.

**TOP Three Rules**
- **Always** treat the gun as loaded.
- **Always** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
- **Always** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

**Additional Rules to Utilize When Using a Gun:**
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Always wear protective equipment to include: eye and ear protection, and orange safety clothing as appropriate.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
- Be aware of your surroundings when handling guns so you don't trip or lose your balance and accidentally point and/or fire the gun at anyone or anything.
- Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the gun you are using.
- Always use proper ammunition.
- Never load a gun until you are ready to use it.
- Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before loading and shooting.
- Always keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, hold your shooting position for several seconds; then, with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, carefully unload the gun.
- Don't rely on the gun's safety to keep it from firing.

State Laws and Published Ordinances can be accessed at: