

Firearms Safety Tips

Child Safety

The National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program <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 at: <https://safety.army.mil/Firearm-Safety>
- ATF P 5300.5 — State Laws and Published Ordinances — Firearms (2010-2011 –31th Edition) be accessed at: <http://www.atf.gov/publications/firearms/state-laws/31st-edition/index.html>
- ATF P 5300.4 — Federal Firearms Regulations Reference Guide 2005 can be accessed at: <http://www.atf.gov/publications/download/p/atf-p-5300-4.pdf>
- Links to State Hunter Education Sites — <http://www.hunter-ed.com/>

References

- <http://www.atf.gov/>
- <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.



EXCHANGE
ARMY & AIRFORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

A Guide to Purchasing Firearms and Firearms Safety



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.

