

# Creating a Safer Environment: Secure Firearms and Medications

Your environment should be a place of safety and care, especially during times of distress or crisis. Unsecured firearms and medications can pose serious risks to yourself and others, including children, teens, and adults. By embracing harm reduction, we can take simple steps to secure these items, reducing the risk of accidental injuries, misuse, or intentional harm. This creates **time** and **distance** between these items and an individual in crisis.

## Firearm Safety

Access to firearms increases the risk of injuries, fatalities, and suicide. Many people don't realize how easily firearms can be accessed, even when they're hidden. Studies show that 70% of children in homes with firearms know where the guns are stored, and many have handled them without their parents' knowledge. Please refer to your specific firearm manufacturer's instructions for proper use of the gun lock.



### Take these steps to make your home safer:

- 🔒 **Store firearms securely:** Use a gun safe or lock to make firearms inaccessible to those at risk.
- 🔒 **Store ammunition and firearms separately:** Storing the ammunition in a separate location from the firearm is recommended.
- 🔒 **Use gun locks:** A trigger or cable lock is an effective layer of security for any firearm.
- 🔒 **Remove firearms from the home during times of crisis:** Temporarily removing firearms when someone is experiencing emotional distress or suicidal thoughts is a proven life-saving strategy.

The free gun lock is a simple and practical tool to help you secure firearms immediately. Wait until you feel confident you can keep yourself and others safe before you handle a firearm. If you don't own a firearm, please consider sharing the lock and this flyer with someone who does to help create a safer community for all.

## Medication Safety

Medications can be a source of harm if not stored securely. Unsecured prescription and over-the-counter drugs may lead to accidental poisoning, misuse, or overdose, particularly for children and individuals in distress.

### Protect your loved ones with these steps:

- 🔒 **Use a prescription lock:** Store medications in a lockbox or secure cabinet to limit access.
- 🔒 **Monitor quantities:** Regularly check for missing pills or signs of misuse.
- 🔒 **Dispose of unused medications:** Safely discard medications at designated drop-off locations or with disposal kits.
- 🔒 **Communicate with your household:** Talk about medication safety and ensure everyone understands the importance of proper storage.
- 🔒 **The free prescription lock will help you take immediate action to secure medications in your home.**



### Medication Disposal Locator:

<https://safe.pharmacy/drug-disposal/>

## A Small Step, A Big Difference

By using firearm and prescription locks, you're taking an important step to protect yourself and your loved ones reducing preventable risks. Let's work together to create a safer environment and a healthier future for everyone.