

# **Top 5 Reloading Mistakes and How to Avoid Them!**

These are common mistakes ordered from least detrimental to most. This is going to be a short read for the reloading newcomer or a veteran reloader looking for a refresher!

## **5. Not Owning a Single Stage Press.**

This may seem minuscule but many new reloaders are just starting out and they are buying more complex auto progressive presses. Some struggling with how to properly setup dies/machines and some are not testing the loads in their guns before creating a large batch.

Testing and load development is crucial to successfully making your own ammo! Being able to make a controlled small batch of ammo with stair steps for powder charge or testing primers is necessary for getting the most out of your reloading dollar, and not wasting time and components pulling a part bullets.

## **4. Know Pressure Signs**

It seems like common sense but establish a baseline for how normal spent brass from your gun looks! Then you can start to decipher what may be a sign of too much pressure. Here are some examples of what to look for: Hard Extraction, Flattened Primers, Extruded Primers, Pierced Primers, Bent Rims, Unusual Velocity, and Split Case Necks. There are some more signs as well, but this covers the vast majority!

Using a stair step powder charge method is the easiest way to develop a proper and accurate load for your rifles or handguns.

## **3. Gather More Knowledge**

When all else fails Google it! It's simple but keep in mind the bible says there is **Safety** in a multitude of counselors! Don't trust Joe Blow on the internet with a reloading blog, find and seek out wise and learned teachers and references that can counsel you on what to do. Buy more than one load

manual, this way you have an easy and quick path to reference load data across multiple companies and bullet brands. So, you can better understand what the max load for your application is!

Therefore we created the [Blue Ridge Brass Reloading Forum](#), it is a place where we are compiling more and more information that is well researched and trusted for us to be able to better serve our customers. You will be able to find load data, tips, and lessons learned from experience there.

## **2. Improper Brass Prep**

This is a very common mistake that can be as severe as a stuck case! Take your time reference any guides or even the simple brass prep checklist that can be down loaded off our website. The most frequent mistake is not having your seating die set properly, this can cause ammo to not chamber or worse if forced into battery will create a stuck case. Rendering the firearm useless.

To prevent sizing issues, buy a case gauge, especially when using mixed range brass! Over the years we have processed A LOT of brass! In doing this we've learned that the chamber the brass was shot from has more to do with it's ability to be sized correctly than the brand of brass or die being used.

Brass shot from sloppy military 5.56 chambers and fully automatic rifles/machine guns will be the hardest to resize vs a match or civilian .223 rem chamber.

## **1. Not Double Checking Yourself!**

I admit it I'm human and I have screwed up before! One of those screw ups was not double checking my powder measure before loading a different handgun caliber. I spent the next hours banging a bullet puller against the ground...Not fun, swore I would never do that again! Luckily none of that ammo was shot otherwise I probably lost a hand.

That's a great reason to just take your time do NOT load ammo in a hurry. Take your time double check yourself and keep a written log of what you've done. Keep in mind it's a hobby and part of the fun here really is the journey of being some of the few people that make their own ammunition. Just like

firearms ownership, reloading can be dangerous if you don't follow some basic rules like I outlined. And once you create those good habits you will go to the range with confidence that you have the best and most accurate ammunition there!

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