

1. Which buildings (Group R-3 occupancies) are affected?

Group R-3 includes NYC one- and two-family homes, small group homes, and similar small-scale residential properties. Apartment buildings and hotels are not included.

2. What the 200-piece limit actually says

The law prohibits storing more than 200 total rounds and primers combined in a Group R-3 home if both are stored together. Each cartridge and each primer counts individually. If only one type is stored, the limit does not apply.

3. What is not limited to 200

Situation	Governing rule	Allowable without FDNY permit
Only ammo (no primers)	General MAQ table (§5606)	One million pistol rounds
Only primers, no ammo	§5606.4 doesn't apply	Up to 10,000 primers allowed
Storage in apartments (R-2)	MAQ table (§5606)	No 200-piece cap
Gun shops, commercial	§5606.5	Own storage/display rules

4. Other fire-safety rules for residences

- Cannot be stored near high explosives (classes 1.1–1.3).
- Smokeless and black powder have separate caps: 20 lb (no cabinet), 50 lb (with cabinet).

5. Typical misunderstandings

Claim	Why it's incorrect
'NYC only allows 200 rounds at home'	Only if primers are also stored. Ammo-only limit is much higher.
'Applies to apartments too'	Apartments are R-2, not R-3. This rule doesn't apply.
'Dealers can't sell >200 rounds'	Sales aren't capped—only residential storage is.
'Detached garage bypasses rule'	Only if the garage is separately classified (not part of R-3 occupancy).



Bottom line for NYC homeowners & reloaders

- If you reload and store primers, total rounds + primers must be ≤ 200 unless stored separately.
- If you don't keep primers, you may store much more ammo (subject to other rules).
- Apartment dwellers (R-2) are not bound by the 200-count cap.

Disclaimer

This summary is a plain-language interpretation of NYC Fire Code 2022–2025. For legal certainty, consult an FDNY Letter of Clarification or qualified legal counsel.

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