



# Injury Prevention: Safe Firearm Storage at Home

## Why Safe Firearm Storage Matters

Firearms in the home increase the risk of unintentional injuries, suicides, and domestic violence—especially when stored loaded or unlocked. Safe storage protects children, teens, adults, and visitors.

## Firearm Safety Best Practices

Please review and check off each safety guideline as it is explained:

☐ **Store firearms unloaded.**

All guns should be unloaded when not in use.

☐ **Use a gun lock or safe.**

Use a locking device (trigger lock, cable lock) and/or store firearms in a locked cabinet or gun safe.

☐ **Store ammunition separately.**

Keep ammunition in a locked container, separate from firearms.

☐ **Hide keys or combinations.**

Store keys and lock combinations in a place only authorized adults can access.

☐ **Teach your family never to touch a gun without adult supervision.**

Children should be taught to never touch a firearm and to tell an adult if they see one.

☐ **Know the signs of emotional distress.**

If someone in the household is struggling with mental health or substance use, remove firearms or store them outside the home temporarily.

## Additional Resources Available: Please Ask!

☐ Free gun lock or safety device offered

☐ Mental health resources brochure

☐ Crisis Lifeline and Suicide prevention hotline: Call or Text **988**

Every year, nearly  
**360 children** in the U.S.  
under the age of 18  
gain access to a firearm  
and **unintentionally**  
shoot themselves  
or someone else.

BeSMARTforKids.org



More than **700 children**  
living in America **die by**  
**gun suicide** every year,  
and secure storage can  
play a crucial role in  
preventing those deaths.

BeSMARTforKids.org



For more information and additional resources, visit "[Besmartforkids.org](https://besmartforkids.org)" or "[ProjectChildsafe.org](https://projectchildsafe.org)"

