

A Parent's Guide to Firearm Storage



Make Maryland a safe place for children.

Maryland law PROHIBITS loaded firearms from being stored or left where an unsupervised minor has access.

Take these simple steps to protect children and prevent tragedy.

- Store and lock firearms unloaded.
- Store and lock ammunition separately from firearms--EVERY time.
- Make sure keys and combinations to gun safes are not accessible to minors or anyone at risk of violence against self or others.
- If someone is in crisis in the household, temporarily remove firearms from your home.
- Avoid storing firearms unattended in vehicles to prevent theft.

IT'S THE LAW.

mdsp.maryland.gov



Safety is the Firearm Owners Responsibility!

There are several ways to safely secure and store a firearm. Choose the way that works best for you.

**A lock should never be placed on a loaded firearm.
Be sure to unload firearms before installing any lock.**



Cable Lock

(Free—\$50) The device blocks the chamber to prevent firing. It typically requires a key or combination to unlock and is usable on most firearms. This method prevents a person from using the gun without removing the cable.



Lock Box

(\$25-\$350) Small safe used to store handguns/small firearms. Typically, it requires a key, combination, or fingerprint to unlock the box. Lockboxes can be permanently mounted in a home to prevent theft.



Trigger Lock

(\$5-\$50) Two-piece lock that fits over the trigger guard and typically requires a key or combination to unlock. It blocks the trigger but does not prevent a loaded gun from being fired. This method is not usable on lever-action firearms.



Safe

(\$100-\$2,500) A safe is able to store a variety of firearms and typically requires a key, combination, or fingerprint to unlock. A safe is the best option to secure multiple firearms, and to prevent theft.

The content above was taken from Maryland Department of Health (2024) Firearm Safe Storage