

Safe Gun Ownership

Being a responsible gun owner is a 24-hour a day job. If you choose to own a gun, consider the following tips to prevent injury, death and theft:

- Unload your gun, lock it up, and lock the bullets in a separate place.
- Do not allow children or teens to have access to guns.
- Always handle the gun as if it were loaded.
- Load your gun only when you are ready to fire it.
- Before storing the gun, check it twice to make sure it is unloaded.
- Know and use your gun's standard safety features.
- Clean and inspect the gun regularly and carefully. Keep the gun in view at all times.
- Check with the police department to learn the laws about carrying guns outside your home.
- Record the serial number of your gun.
- Ask a police officer how to dispose of a gun. Do not throw it in the trash.
- Do not try to fix a gun yourself if it breaks.
- Never show off with your gun.
- When you buy a gun lock, ask a gunsmith how to put the lock on your gun.
- Take a class to learn gun safety and how to care for your gun.

Why Should You Lock Up Your Gun?

- A gun in the home is more likely to kill a friend or family member than to be used for self-defense.
- The risk of homicide is 3 times greater in homes with guns.
- The risk of suicide is 5 times greater in homes with guns.
- Thousands of handguns are stolen each year in the U.S and in Indiana. Many are used to commit other crimes.

For more information:

Indiana Partnership to Prevent Violent Injury and Death 317-278-0945
Indianapolis Police Department Crime Prevention Unit 317-327-3781
Marion County Health Department Trigger Lock Distribution Program 317-221-2085



Indiana Partnership to Prevent Violent Injury and Death
Riley Hospital for Children
702 Barnhill Drive • Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone 317-278-0945



Gun Locking Devices

The Choice is Yours



The safest choice for your family is to remove all guns from the home. If you choose to keep a gun, unload it and lock it up. Store the bullets in a separate location. A locking device made of quality materials and used properly, may help reduce the chance of injury to your loved ones. Here are three main types:

Lock Box

What it is:

A small safe designed to store a handgun.

How it works:

The handgun is locked inside the box.

A push-button combination, or key opens the lock.

Features: Most models can be mounted to an existing structure. Some have lighted locks for access in the dark. Most have padded interiors. Some battery-operated models can also be opened with a key.

Price: \$80-200

Advantages:

- Quick access if the lock is push-button
- Difficult to steal if mounted
- May hold more than one handgun
- Keeps gun out of sight
- Sturdy construction

Disadvantages:

- Costs more than trigger or cable locks
- Can only be used with handguns



Trigger Lock

What it is:

A two-piece lock that fits over the trigger guard.



How it works:

The lock surrounds the trigger guard so the trigger cannot be pulled. A combination or key opens the lock.

Features: There are many models and sizes. Steel ones work better than plastic ones. Take your gun make and model number with you when buying the lock to help you find the lock that will best fit your gun.

Price: \$10-15

Advantages:

- Inexpensive
- Widely available
- Can be used with most handguns, rifles and shotguns

Disadvantages:

- Some may not prevent access by older children or teens
- May not prevent theft of gun
- Some may be easily opened

Trigger locks are available through the Marion County Health Department free of charge for Marion County residents. In addition, cable locks are provided free of charge through the Indianapolis Police Department. Gun locking devices are also sold in places such as: gun stores, sporting good stores, firing ranges, locksmiths and discount stores.

Cable Lock

What it is:

A device that blocks the chamber to prevent a cartridge from being fired.



How it works:

Cable locks are put through the magazine well or chamber, or are put through the gun barrel and chamber to block a bullet from moving into position. A combination or key opens the lock.

Features: There are many types. Some are metal and some are vinyl covered wire cable. Some types may only fit certain revolver or pistol models. Some have anti-tamper alarms.

Price: \$5-20

Advantages:

- Long cables may be threaded through several guns
- Inexpensive
- Can be used with most handguns, rifles, and shotguns

Disadvantages:

- Small cables could be cut
- Some may be easily opened

There are no standards to regulate gun locking devices. No trigger or cable lock is foolproof. Gun owners should consider locking guns in a gun safe or lock box. REMEMBER—gun locking devices should only be used on UNLOADED guns.