

BE SMART

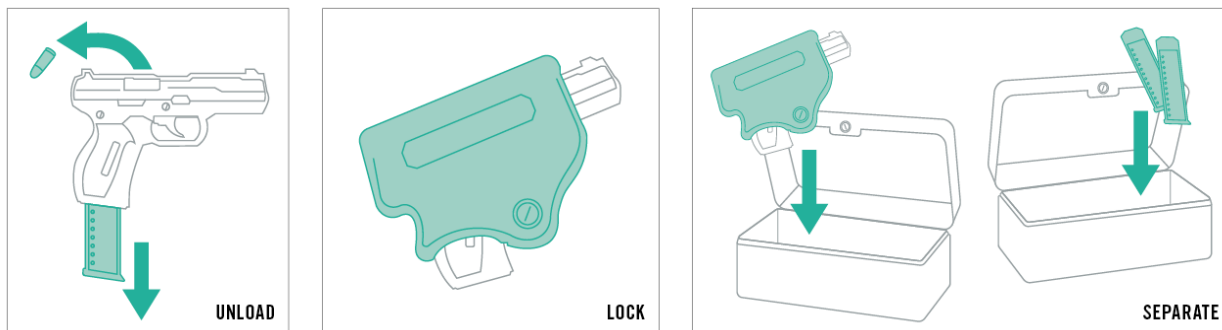
Keeping Your Home Safe with Secure Storage

If you've made the decision to bring a gun into your home, it's important to know how responsible gun owners work to keep their families safe by mitigating the inherent risks associated with firearm ownership. Every responsible gun owner securely stores their guns so that they are inaccessible to children and other people who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Here's why:

- Nearly **700 children die by gun suicide each year**, most often using guns belonging to a family member.
- **350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves** or someone else each year.
- One-third of these incidents can be prevented with secure storage.

Safety is always an adult responsibility. Kids will be kids, so it's always an adult's responsibility to keep children safe. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they've been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. Be SMART adults protect kids by making sure all guns are stored securely, which means they are inaccessible to kids, and by making sure children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

What Is Secure Firearm Storage?



Unload: Remove all ammunition from the firearm, including removing any chambered rounds.

Lock: Secure guns with a firearm locking device, such as a jacket lock, or in a locked location, like a safe or lockbox.

Separate: Store ammunition in a secure location separate from the firearm.

Secure Storage Makes Homes with Guns Safer

Simply put, if there are guns in your home, it's safer to store them securely. One study showed that households that locked both firearms and ammunition had a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children.

It's important to know that secure storage devices won't stand in the way of getting to your gun quickly if you need it. There are plenty of affordable storage options—from lockboxes, to gun safes, to devices with biometric authentication—that allow you access to guns in a matter of seconds while still preventing access by children and other unauthorized people.

Everyone wants to keep their family safe. If there's a gun in your home, practicing secure storage will help you do just that. Learn more about secure storage at: <https://besmartforkids.org/>