



Firearm Safety & Injury Prevention: A Community Commitment

Safe. Smart. Secure.

Every firearm owner plays a key role in protecting families and communities. The American College of Surgeons recommends evidence-based practices to reduce firearm injuries and deaths—here's what that means for you:

Ask About Gun Storage — A Simple Step That Saves Lives

Firearm ownership is a personal choice, but how those firearms are stored affects everyone—especially kids. Unintentional shootings often happen in the homes of friends or family. That's why it's important to ask about secure gun storage before your child visits another home. It might feel awkward at first, but asking is an act of care—not judgment. These conversations help keep kids safe, and they're easier than you might think.

What You Can Do

- Start the conversation early: Include gun storage questions when asking about pets, allergies, or screen time rules.
- Make it routine: Ask every time your child visits a new home—storage practices and ownership may change.
- Be specific: Ask if firearms are unloaded, locked up, and stored separately from ammunition.
- Lead by example: If you own guns, share how you store them safely to open the door for a two-way conversation.
- Use text or email if needed: Sometimes it's easier to start the conversation in writing—do what feels most comfortable.
- Know your boundaries: If a home doesn't have secure storage, it's okay to say your child won't be visiting.

Keeping Your Home Safe with Secure Firearm Storage

If you choose to keep a firearm in your home, safe storage is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your loved ones. Kids are naturally curious, and teens may act impulsively. Even if you think your child “knows better,” a moment of curiosity or crisis can turn tragic if a gun is left accessible. Secure storage keeps children, guests, and other household members safe. It's not about fear—it's about responsibility.

What Does Secure Storage Look Like?

- Unload: Remove all ammunition and make sure no rounds are chambered.
- Lock: Use a firearm lock, lockbox, or gun safe to prevent unauthorized access.
- Separate: Store ammunition in a separate, secure location away from the firearm.

Responsible Gun Owners Choose Safety

- Assume kids can and will find a gun, even if they've been told not to touch it.
- Teach children that if they see a gun, they should leave the area and tell an adult—but never rely on that alone.