

# SAFE STORAGE GUIDE

Safely storing firearms and ammunition in Alberta is crucial for the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole. Proper storage practices significantly reduce the risk of accidents, unauthorized access, and theft, thereby enhancing overall public safety. Responsible storage ensures that firearms are inaccessible to individuals who should not have access, such as children or unauthorized users.

-It is every firearms owner's responsibility to ensure safe firearm and ammunition storage.

-Secure storage helps prevent the misuse and theft of firearms.

-Complying with established regulations for firearms and ammunition storage not only aligns with legal requirements but also promotes a culture of accountability and diligence.

-Go above and beyond your legal requirements and rely on best practices!



The Alberta Gun Wise Safety First Program is a program created by the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA). AHEIA is a non-profit, registered charity that coordinates Conservation Education throughout Alberta. AHEIA works in cooperation with several Alberta Government departments to deliver these quality programs to you and your family.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE GUN WISE PROGRAM

Contact the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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# HOW DO I STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SAFELY?



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## FIREARMS

Responsible gun owners securely store their firearms and ammunition in a manner that prevents unauthorized access, especially by children or individuals who should not have access to firearms. That includes using gun safes, trigger locks and making sure firearms are unloaded when not in use.

### FOR NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS:

As a best practice, take all these precautions:

- Attach a secure locking device, such as a trigger lock, or cable lock,
- Remove the bolt, AND
- Lock the firearms a cabinet, container or safe room that is out of sight.

### FOR RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED FIREARMS:

As a best practice, take all these precautions when storing your restricted or prohibited firearm:

- Attach a secure locking device, AND
- Lock the firearm in a vault, safe or room that was specifically built to store firearms.



# HOW DO I STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SAFELY?

## AMMUNITION

Responsible gun owners manage their ammunition in a safe manner by storing it separately from the firearms and in a controlled environment. They also follow the guidelines for ammunition types suitable for the targets they are shooting.

You are restricted from storing more than 225 kg of ammunition (the mass of the explosive excluding the packaging, container, shell casing or projectile) in a dwelling (such as a house, apartment or cottage) or a storage unit without a licence under the Explosives Act.

### DWELLING

You must store the ammunition away from flammable substances and sources of ignition. You must ensure that it can be accessed only by people you have authorized.

### STORAGE UNIT

You are permitted to store the ammunition in a storage unit if:

- The storage unit is in a dry place, away from flammable substances and any sources of ignition.
- The storage unit must be constructed and maintained to prevent unauthorized access and protect the contents from weather.
- The storage unit is a container, it must not block exit in case of fire.
- The storage unit is not a container, all exits must be kept clear.

# HOW DO I STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SAFELY?

## AMMUNITION CONT.

- The shelving in the storage unit is made from a non-sparking material (for example, wood or painted metal).
- Only propellant powder, primers (percussion caps) and/or black powder cartridges are stored with the ammunition.
- Ammunition, propellant powder, primers and black powder cartridges are stored separately (for example, on different shelves or separated by a wooden barrier).
- The storage unit is monitored when it is unlocked.
- The storage unit is kept clean, dry, organized and free of grit.
- Any spill, leakage or other contamination is cleaned up immediately.
- You take steps to minimize the risk of fire in or near the storage unit.
- You post a sign that displays the words “Danger — Fire Hazard/Risque d’incendie” in letters at least 10 centimetres high on the storage unit in a clearly visible location. The sign must also prohibit smoking using letters or a symbol at least 10 centimetres high.