

*The*  
GUN OWNER'S  
H A N D B O O K



**American Gun**  
ASSOCIATION

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# INTRODUCTION

**B**ecoming a gun owner for the first time is an exciting experience. Hopefully, you've done yourself (and the rest of the gun community) a massive favor by

doing lots of research before choosing your gun! Ideally, this includes spending time using your preferred model before purchasing it to make sure it's a good fit – not to mention the right type of gun for your intended purpose!

However, a very common issue is a first-time gun owner spending all their time and energy on finding the right gun. They don't think much further until they get home with their new firearm for the first time.

They know exactly what they want and need in a gun, as well as exactly what they intend to do with it. What to do next is sometimes a total mystery.

Figuring it all out can become overwhelming, especially when you feel you need to play "catch up."

This is what our Gun Owner's Handbook is for!

Whether you're a first-time gun owner looking to figure everything out or a veteran looking for a quick and easy reference guide, we've packed as much as possible into this book for easy access.

We believe owning a firearm is every American's Constitutional right. However, with every right comes equal responsibility – and owning a gun is definitely a big responsibility. Make sure you're up to the task and properly representing the community as a responsible gun owner!



# MAINTENANCE

**K**eeping your firearm in tip-top shape through proper cleaning and lubrication will make it last longer and maintain performance.

It's important to recognize different guns require different levels of maintenance. This isn't only true when comparing handguns and rifles, but – perhaps on a deeper level – when considering your firearm's purpose.

A gun you only use at the range isn't going to require the same level of maintenance as one you carry every day for self-defense.

Likewise, a firearm that sits on a rack until hunting season isn't going to need the same maintenance as one that gets used often for competitions.

Of course, things like make and model also affect the maintenance your gun requires.

## **Before Cleaning a Gun, Make Sure to:**

1. Review the gun's manual to check assembly and reassembly instructions, cleaning and lubricating recommendations, and other safety guidelines.
2. Wipe down your gun with a dry rag and get into its nooks and crannies using a Q-tip. Avoid using a solvent right away, as it will only make a mess.
3. For your safety, make sure the gun is not loaded and is facing a safe direction at all times.
4. Keep any chemicals (e.g. cleaning solutions, lubricants) away from ammunition as these pose a fire hazard and may cause damage.
5. Use products and tools recommended for your



gun type. Certain tools, such as brushes, vary depending on the caliber it will be used for. Like guns, cleaning products and tools should also be maintained and stored properly.

It's also worth considering getting a proper gun cleaning kit, or [putting your own together with the 10 essentials for gun cleaning](#).

Many gun owners also find it very helpful to have more than one cleaning kit, especially if they have more than one firearm.

Even if you only have the one, having a basic kit to take with to the range and a more complete one for deep cleaning at home makes life a lot easier!

## Gun Cleaning

There are several steps to [gun cleaning](#). The two biggest areas that often get overlooked are the bore and action.

### Bore Cleaning

Bore cleaning might be one of the most labor-intensive steps in gun maintenance, but neglecting to do this step can negatively impact performance and cause damage to the gun.

What you'll need: Bore Brush, Cleaning Rod, Solvent, Patch Holder, Patches, and Gun Oil/Lubricant.

#### For Semi-Autos:

1. Rub the inside of your bore with some solvent, and then leave it for a few minutes.
2. Scrub the bore of the barrel by pushing the brush back and forth. Add more solvent as needed.
3. Remove the bore brush and attach a patch holder to the cleaning rod.



4. Attach a patch to the patch holder and run it through the barrel.
5. Replace the patch after the first swab. Repeat step 4 until the patch becomes relatively clean.
6. Shine a light through the bore to check if there is still anything stuck to the interior. If there is, continue cleaning using the brush and solvent.

#### For Revolvers:

Follow the same procedure in cleaning the bore of semi-autos, but be sure to brush and patch all chambers of the revolver.

### Action Cleaning

The action contains most of the essential parts of a gun so it's very important to keep it in prime condition.

What you'll need: Rag, Q-tips, and Gun Oil/Lubricant.

Lubricant.

1. Check your gun's manual for instructions on how to disassemble the action. For a deep clean, disassemble completely.
2. Wipe down the gun with a rag to remove any dirt and dust. To reach into nooks and crannies, use Q-tips.
3. Add a bit of gun oil to the rag and rub it on the gun.

Note: Check the gun's manual on what parts should be lubricated to avoid any performance issues or damage to your gun.

## Caring for Wooden and Synthetic Stocks

Over time, gun stocks get scratched due to the wear and tear of regular use. Whether your gun has a wooden or synthetic stock, it's crucial to keep it in good condition.



## Wooden Stock Maintenance

What you'll need: Rag, Wax and Polish Remover, Gun Stock Wood Finishing Oil, and Gun Stock Wax.

1. Wipe down stock with wax and polish remover to remove dirt and old wax or polish.
2. Apply finishing oil and let sit for 15 minutes.
3. Repeat step 2 three more times.
4. For a nicer finish and an extra layer of protection, apply wax.

## Synthetic Stock Maintenance

What you'll need: Rag and Gun Oil.

1. Wipe down stock using a rag to remove dirt. For peskier stains, you can use a bit of soap and water.
2. Apply gun oil on the stock to maintain its sheen. Be sure to wipe it clean afterward.

## Caring for Scopes and Scope Mounts

Maintaining [scopes and scope mounts](#) is just as crucial as gun cleaning in ensuring a good shooting experience.

## Scope Maintenance

What you'll need: lens brush/blower brush, and lens tissue/soft cloth.

1. Remove dust or dirt from the lens by blowing on it or using a lens brush. You may also use a lens blower brush used for cleaning cameras.
2. Gently rub the lens using lens tissue or a soft cloth to get rid of fingerprints or lubricant stains.
3. If available, protect the lens with a lens cap.

## Open/Iron Sights

What you'll need: Paint Kits for Open/Iron sights.

1. Clean the surface of the gun and then let it dry.
2. Select the color you want from the paint kit. The idea is to have the right contrast that will easily show your target. Having too much



contrast may cause glare when shooting under a bright light (e.g. sunlight).

3. Follow the instructions indicated on the kit's manual, and then let the paint dry for around 24 hours.

### Scope Mount Maintenance

1. Upon installation, make sure to use the correct tools indicated in the manual.
2. Properly store your mount in its case when it's not being used.

## Caring For Slings, Cases, and Holsters

Slings, cases, and holsters keep your gun protected when not in use. It's important to maintain them to avoid needing to buy a new one often.

A quick word on cases and range bags before we get into how to properly care for all these items: range bags aren't only for transporting your gun safely to and from the range, but in general as well.

Your first case doesn't necessarily have to be a big, expensive investment. As long as it's able to properly protect your firearm while in transit, it should be good enough.

You can even pair it with a regular backpack to stow your other gear (including a range cleaning kit, eye and ear protection, and other basics).

However, a proper range bag certainly is a good investment and worth the added cost. The main benefits are organizational.

Professional (or at least high-quality) range bags will have dedicated pockets and sleeves for your firearm (in some cases two) and magazines, at the very least.

They'll often have extra pouches that can be used for ammunition, a small cleaning kit, and protective gear.

Ultimately, the most important things to look for in a case or range bag are durability and security.

### Sling Maintenance

What you'll need: soap, rag, and detergent.

1. Use a brush or a damp rag to remove dirt.
2. Rub the sling with soap. Use detergent for the fabric pads. Let dry. *Note: Use [saddle soap](#) for leather slings to avoid damage.*
3. For discoloration in leather slings, use leather dye to patch up the affected areas.

### Case Maintenance

Check the user manual if your case is washer-friendly. If not, wash it by hand using water and soap, and then hang dry.



## Holster Maintenance

What you'll need: rag.

1. Wipe down the interior and exterior of your holster with a rag.
2. For leather holsters, you can use saddle soap and leather care products.
3. If the holster gets wet, either from the elements or sweat, be sure to dry it off in a cool, dry place. Avoid exposing leather holsters to artificial heat or sunlight to avoid damage.

## Lubrication

Proper lubrication allows your gun to work properly. It allows parts to move freely while resisting deterioration from usage.

What you'll need: Lubricant (Gun Oil) and Q-tips.

### Tips for proper lubrication:

1. Check your gun's manual for the correct amount of lubricant required by your firearm. Applying too much can negatively affect performance and might even cause damage to the gun and any ammunition allowed to remain chambered (lubricant will affect the ammunition's primer, making it prone to misfire or hangfire).
2. Avoid lubricating parts sensitive to debris since lubricants cause items to stick to the surface. If unsure, check the manual to see which parts need to be lubricated. Different gun types have different lubrication requirements.

## Rust Prevention

Rust is formed when metal is exposed to moisture and oxygen.

It causes a noticeable discoloration (typically

appropriately named rust orange) and, over time, will do considerable damage to your firearm if not properly taken care of.

Prevention is always the better option.

### Tips for rust prevention:

1. Use rust prevention products. A lot of cleaning solutions available on the market are multi-purpose since they can also lubricate or protect. Choose cleaning solutions that contain chemicals for rust prevention. Be careful to only buy products specifically made for firearms, however. Talk to your local gun shop for recommendations.
2. Store your gun properly. Protect your gun from the elements by keeping it in a moisture-free container – or, even better, in a gun safe. We'll talk more about proper gun storage in a later chapter of this manual.
3. Never leave your gun in a wet condition. Most





guns get damaged when exposed to water. If you're shooting in the rain or snow, here are some tips to protect your gun from water:

- a) Oil your gun
  - b) Tape your bore
  - c) Rub lip balm over your scope mount screws
4. Rub gun oil on your gun when rusting has already started. At the first sign of rust, apply gun oil to your gun, which will eliminate oxidation and provide another layer of protection the next time you're out.

## Common Gun Problems

Guns should be cleaned and checked regularly.

Poor gun maintenance can lead to issues that affect your gun's performance and might even cause damage.

Here are some common issues related to gun

maintenance:

1. Misfiring: Occurs when the trigger is pulled, but the firearm doesn't discharge
2. Hangfire: Occurs when the trigger is pulled, but there's a noticeable delay before the firearm successfully discharges (typically up to 60 seconds)
3. Sticky Actions: Difficulty in opening the bolt
4. Sticking Cartridges: Cartridge gets stuck and won't eject
5. Jamming: Failure to feed or extract cartridge, fully cycle after firing, or to lock back when empty
6. Poor Accuracy: Inaccuracy in firing that causes shooter to miss the target
7. Rough Trigger Pulls: Heavy/hard-to-pull trigger that may cause inaccurate shots





**T**he hallmark of a responsible gun owner is taking the time to learn and apply the ins and outs of owning and shooting a firearm.

This is especially true in practicing [gun safety](#) at all times.

## Guidelines for Gun Safety

### **Rule #1: Treat all weapons as if they are loaded.**

Treating a gun as if it is loaded pushes owners to be extra careful. Whether you're planning to clean your gun, send it off for repair, or simply handing it to someone, always do a chamber check first.

### **Rule #2: Do not point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.**

For safety reasons, do not point your gun anywhere

except for the target. When not in use, simply point the gun toward the ground and keep your finger off the trigger.





### **Rule #3: Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until you are pointing it at your intended target.**

Resting one's finger on the trigger, and even the trigger guard, is unsafe. In some cases, it might even cause a negligent discharge (ND).

If you're simply holding the gun, it's best to rest your finger against the frame of the gun.

Once you're ready to fire, it only takes 1/10th of a second to move your finger onto the trigger and squeeze.

### **Rule #4: Know what is between you and your intended target and beyond.**

Before firing a gun, make sure to cover all your bases by assessing your area and potential scenarios. If for any reason you fail to hit your target, what are the odds it will hit something or someone else instead?

These are often referred to as the 4 Golden Rules of Gun Safety.

While they were being shared in various written forms dating back to the early 1900s, Commander Jeff Cooper is generally credited with having first codified them in 1991 when he published [\*The Modern Technique of the Pistol\*](#).

There are other gun safety rules (many sites use 10 Golden Rules), but for the most part they primarily expand on the principles these 4 rules convey.

It's always worth looking up and understanding this wider range of gun safety rules, but you should at the very least have these 4 memorized.

## **Ear and Eye Protection**

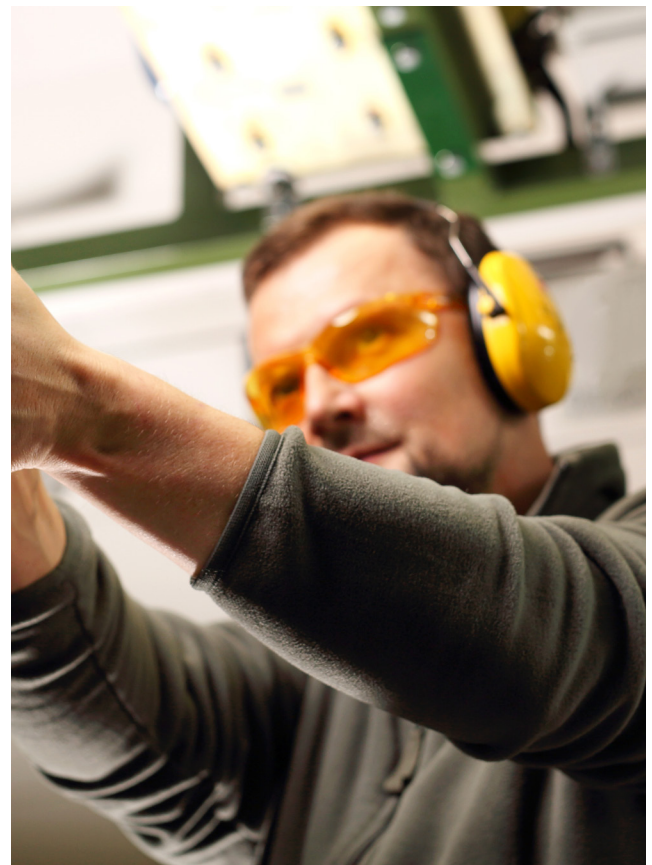
Ear and eye protection will come up in a few other areas, but it's worth giving them their own section because they're a crucial part of gun safety.

Even when using a suppressor (also known as a silencer, though this term is misleading), a firearm's discharge is loud. Suppressors do exactly that – they suppress the volume.

They certainly don't silence the firearm.

The average firearm's discharge is loud enough to cause permanent damage to the ears, especially if multiple shots are fired and with extended exposure.

Even with a suppressor, emptying a clip without ear protection can be enough to cause lasting damage.



When shooting at an outside range (or while hunting, for example), inner-ear protection – like earplugs – are generally considered enough.

However, you should invest in a good quality pair, as cheaper ones will still let enough sound in to cause discomfort.

At a later stage (especially if you're considering competing), more expensive custom-made earplugs make more sense.

For shooting indoors, however, whether at the range or during tactical training for civilians classes, it's always recommended to wear earplugs as well as over-the-ear headphone-style ear protection.

It's tempting to go for noise-cancelling headphones, but bear in mind you still need to be able to hear range commands when they're called.

Eye protection can be just as tricky.

Different lens types are better suited for different shooting conditions – polarized options to protect

you from the sun as well as the toxic gases emitted when a gun discharges, contrast glasses for enhancing target sight far downrange, even glasses designed to accentuate the color of a skeet bird.

There are also different sizes, lens material, polarization, and even styles. You might end up wanting to get more than one pair; one for outdoors and another for using indoors at the range.

## Loading and Unloading

The steps to [loading and unloading](#) a gun vary for different gun types. Always review the gun's manual for the specific instructions.

Regardless of the gun type, one must always do a chamber check prior to loading and unloading.

### Revolvers

#### Loading

1. Do a chamber check. Leave the cylinder open.
2. Load rounds into each chamber or use a speed loader.
3. Check if all chambers are full.
4. Close the cylinder.

#### Unloading

1. Do a chamber check.
2. Push on the ejector rod to unload all chambers

### Semiautomatics

#### Loading

1. Do a chamber check. Leave the cylinder open.
2. Insert the magazine with the safety on.
3. Switch off the safety.
4. Pull the slide with your support hand, then release. You'll know you've fully released the slide if your support hand touches your shoulder.





Note: Not fully releasing the slide may cause issues to the gun's performance.

5. Do another chamber check and then switch on the safety.

### Unloading

1. Do a chamber check.
2. Switch on the safety, while resting your finger outside the trigger guard.
3. Take out the magazine and remove the cartridges inside.
4. Pull the slide and allow the round to fall into your hand.
5. Do another chamber check and then switch on the safety.

## Stance and Grip

Having the [right stance and grip](#) is just as important as the gun type for any situation that involves shooting.

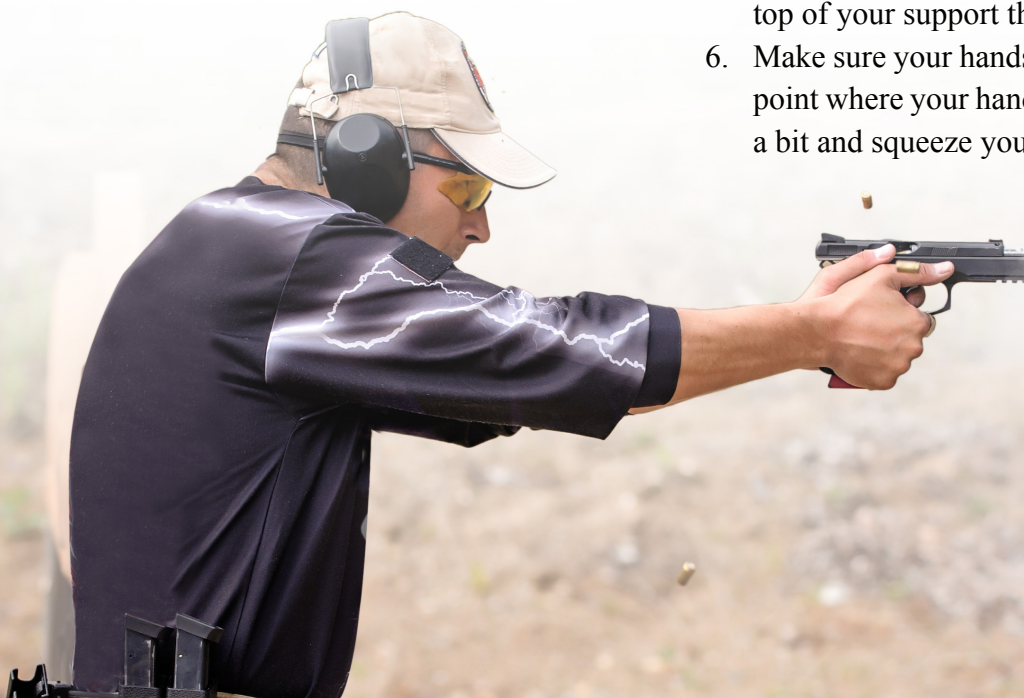
To prepare you for any situation and to improve accuracy, keep in mind the correct stance and grip.

### Stance

1. Stand with your feet parallel to your shoulders. If you're not comfortable, try moving your feet further apart.
2. Slide your gun foot about six inches to the back.
3. Lean forward slightly and bend your knees. In the correct angle, you should be able to withstand a slight push without falling backward. This will allow your body to absorb the gun's recoil.
4. Practice a few more times for muscle memory.

### Grip

1. Hold the gun with your gun hand. Your hand should be positioned as high as possible on the backstrap. However, make sure your hand will not be "bitten" by the slide when it comes back.
2. Using three fingers and your thumb, grip the gun. Keep your index finger along the frame and away from the trigger.
3. With your support hand, point your thumb toward your target.
4. Move your support hand to the side of the gun.
5. Rest your palm on the side of the gun, then wrap four fingers around the fingers of your gun hand. They should all be underneath the trigger guard, with your gun thumb resting on top of your support thumb.
6. Make sure your hands meet in the back. At the point where your hands meet, roll your elbows a bit and squeeze your hands together.



## Range Commands

Familiarize yourself with these commands, which are usually given by range officers to ensure a safe atmosphere for you and your fellow shooters:

RANGE COMMAND	EXPECTED ACTION
"Range is hot"	A usual expression to signal that shooting is about to begin. You should already be wearing your protective gear by this time.
"Cease fire/firing"	Stop shooting until the range officer says otherwise.
"Commence fire/firing"	Continue shooting when you're ready.
"Load/unload"	Load/unload your weapon.
"Make Firearms Safe"	Remove ammunition and magazines and keep the bolt in open position.

## Guidelines for Range Safety

In addition to knowing the range commands, shooters should also follow these range safety protocols while at the range:

### Rule #1: Read the range guidelines before doing anything.

Before doing anything, familiarize yourself with the guidelines of the range first. If they are not posted somewhere, ask for a copy and read it carefully.

### Rule #2: Wear protective gear.

Shooting involves loud noises and toxic chemicals and items that can get in your eyes. Protect yourself by wearing the prescribed gear.

### Rule #3: Ask for help if you're unfamiliar with the gun.

If you're unsure about something, such as how to handle or operate your gun, don't hesitate to ask for help.

### Rule #4: Before handling a gun, make sure the muzzle is pointing downrange.

### Rule #5: Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Do not point your gun in the direction of other shooters, or anything other than the target.





**Rule #6: Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.**

Keep your finger off the trigger until you're lined up and ready to shoot.

**Rule #7: Always keep the gun unloaded unless you're ready to use it.**

Make sure the magazine is empty, out of the gun, and that there's nothing in the chamber.

**Rule #8: Unload gun before changing targets, shooters, or loading magazines.**

**Rule #9: Never hand a loaded gun to anyone.**

Handing a loaded gun involves the risk of the shooter accidentally shooting himself or the other person.



**Rule #10: Never cross the firing line for any reason.**

**Rule #11: If there's a need to go downrange, wait for a ceasefire and further instructions.**

**Rule #12: Align your muzzle with your target.**

Make sure the muzzle is directed at the center of your target to avoid shooting the ceiling, floor, or other targets.

**Rule #13: Call for a ceasefire if there is anything unusual.**

While range officers usually call this command, you can always call for it if you see something off or unsafe.

## Guidelines for Night Shooting Safety

If you own and carry a gun for self-defense, then you should be aware many situations where you need to draw your firearm to defend yourself take place at night or in other low- light conditions.

The same can be said if you intend to hunt at night. It's vital you practice [night shooting](#) safely.

When doing this, be aware of the following additional safety guidelines to protect yourself and anyone (or anything) else in the area:

### **Rule #1: Be sure to clearly identify what you're shooting.**

Before taking a shot, make sure to check the body of the animal first. If you see a pair of eyes, don't shoot until you've determined what it is.

### **Rule #2: Establish clear lines of fire.**

Be sure to determine boundaries and not cross them. You can check out the area in broad daylight beforehand so you can familiarize yourself.

### **Rule #3: Use the appropriate firearms and ammunition.**

Check local regulations for the list of approved firearms and ammunition.

### **Rule #4: Wear the appropriate equipment.**

Always wear protective gear before shooting. Take extra precaution if you're wearing night vision equipment since you will not be as visible to others compared to if you're carrying a lamp.

### **Rule #5: Do not split into groups.**

Splitting into groups raises the risk of you and members of your party shooting each other. In addition, always be on the lookout for other people that happen to be in the area.





# STORAGE

**P**roper storage will help in preserving your gun as well as ensure the safety of everyone in your household.

## Guidelines for Storing Your Gun at Home

### Rule #1: Use a gun-locking device.

Before storing your gun, it's best to have a device that will make it inoperable, such as a trigger lock.

### Rule #2: Store your gun in a safe place.

Keep guns away from children and limit their accessibility so they can only be accessed with your permission. Keep them locked in a cabinet, drawer, or vault.

Ideally, get a proper [gun safe](#).

There are many options available on the market, from large, extravagant safes to easy-access bedside safes and even smaller ones that can be hidden in a locked closet or cabinet.

Ensuring your gun is stored in a safe place is the most important part of storing your gun at home.

Using a gun-locking device is a back-up safety measure.

Getting a proper gun safe should arguably be the first investment you make. If you have to sit with a cheaper DIY cleaning kit and a makeshift case/range bag to start with so you can afford the safe, do so.

**Rule #3: Lock away ammunition in a different location from the gun.**

**Rule #4: Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**

**Rule #5: Communicate with other members of your household.**

Discuss gun safety protocols with other members of your household.

If appropriate and they're willing, offer to accompany them to gun safety classes and be proactive in helping them properly understand how to use a firearm safely, should the need arise.

## Guidelines for Long Term Storage

If you're planning to keep your gun stored for quite some time, be sure to follow these simple guidelines.

### For the Gun:

1. Disassemble your gun.
2. Clean all parts of the gun and be sure to remove any residue, which can cause damage if not eliminated.
3. If your gun has a wooden stock, wax it before storing the gun.
4. Check your gun from time to time and apply gun oil when necessary.
5. Store long guns barrel down.

### For the Storage Device:

1. Include a dehumidifier or desiccant in your storage device to prevent moisture from forming on your gun.

2. If possible, keep your gun in a silicone treated gun sock to prevent rusting and scratching.
3. Add an extra layer of protection by keeping your gun in a storage bag. There are different options available on the market, such as velcro seal and vacuum seal.

## Gun Storage Products

There are a variety of products dedicated to gun storage on the market.

Familiarize yourself with what's out there, then determine which will work for your specific needs and requirements.





	Gun Case	Strong Box and Security Case	Locking Steel Gun Cabinet	Gun Safe
Price	\$10-\$150	Less than \$50 - more than \$300	\$150 - \$450	\$500 - \$2500
Locking Mechanism	Soft gun cases can locked with a padlock.  Hard gun cases often have its own lock.	Aside from regular locks, some models have an electronic keypad or a firngingerprint scanner.  Some models have features optimized for travel.	Some models offer up to three levels of locks for added security	Features complex locking mechanisms and can even be bolted to a concrete slab.
Pros	Affordable  Portable	Portable  Offers high-tech security features	Portable  Can accomodate multiple guns at the same time	Most secure option
Cons	Material can easily be ruined, so it's vulnerable to theft	Can't accomodate multiple guns at the same time	No fire-resistant insulation	Not portable  Pricey

## Trigger Locks

Aside from keeping your gun in a safe location, you may also opt to use a trigger lock for added safety.

This eliminates the risk of accidental discharge, as it will make your gun inoperable. If a trigger lock is unavailable in your area, you may also use a padlock.

Remember – something like a trigger lock is a secondary line of defense against unauthorized use of your firearm.

Using one should never become an excuse for not properly storing your firearm in a proper gun safe (ideally) or strong cabinet, or for leaving your firearm out in the open for even a second when not in use.



# AMMUNITION

**H**aving the right gun is only half the formula. For a great shooting experience, you also need to pay special attention to making sure you're using the right ammunition for that gun.

## Choosing the Right Ammunition

[Choosing the right ammunition](#) can be daunting, especially for first-time shooters. When faced with this task, here are some questions to ask:

### For what purpose will the ammunition be used?

There is a variety of ammunition available in the market to cater to the requirements of each purpose.

Ammunition for personal defense guns differs

from those recommended for hunting. When choosing ammunition, always consider your purpose first.

Ammunition for training with will also differ from ammunition for everyday carry (EDC).

Some manufacturers take this into consideration, for example [Winchester's "Train & Defend" line](#), where ammunition for training with and ammunition for defending yourself with are clearly marked as such on the boxes.

### What type of gun will the ammunition be used with?

Handguns, rifles, and shotguns require different ammunition. Check which ammunition will work best with your gun. This must always include making sure you're using the correct caliber as well.



## How much am I willing to spend?

The cost of ammunition depends on your purpose for shooting. Inexpensive rounds might work for casual shooting at the range, but you may want to spend a little more for personal defense guns.

## Who is the manufacturer of the ammunition?

Each manufacturer has a distinct story that expresses how its products are unique.

However, it still comes down to personal preference. Experiment with different brands to discover which works best for you.



## US Ammunition Laws

### Federal Laws

US laws on ammunition regulation are similar to those of firearm regulation.

However, federal laws on ammunition regulation only cover prohibition on purchase by certain individuals and a prohibition on the manufacturing, importation, and sale of armor-piercing ammunition.

### Prohibition on purchase by certain individuals

Certain categories of people are not allowed to purchase ammunition. These include people who have:

- a. been convicted of gun-related or violent offenses
- b. a track record of drug or alcohol abuse
- c. been convicted of juvenile offenses
- d. suffered from severe mental illness (i.e. committed in a mental institution or have been deemed “mentally defective” in court)

### Minimum Age

Laws on the minimum age of possessing ammunition vary on the type of gun:

- a. Handgun ammunition: Under-18s are not allowed to possess handguns and handgun ammunition
- b. Long-gun ammunition: No minimum age provided by federal law
- c. Exceptions: temporary transfer and possession for certain activities

## Licensing

Under federal law, ammunition manufacturers and importers must get a license from the Attorney General.

## Armor-Piercing Ammunition

Manufacturing, importing, and selling armor-piercing ammunition is prohibited, with certain exceptions:

- a. Licensed dealers are not allowed to transfer armor-piercing ammunition “willfully”
- b. Armor-piercing ammunition may be used for certain sporting and industrial purposes, as long as it has been deemed exempted by the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Explosives
- c. Federally-licensed dealers must keep a record of transfers

## State Laws

Certain states have created their own laws to further regulate ammunition, so it’s best to check your local state laws if you’re considering purchasing or owning ammunition.

Some additions to ammunition laws include:

- a. Mandatory background check for purchasers and owners
- b. Licensing and additional requirements for sellers
- c. Restrictions for purchase by certain categories and ages of people, in addition to those determined by federal law





# US GUN LAWS

Before purchasing a firearm or carrying a gun into another state, be sure to check local laws, as different states have different takes on gun regulation.

This includes reciprocal laws for Concealed Carry and other examples.

## US Gun Laws

US federal laws on gun regulation are practiced across the country, with some states offering a variation on the law.

In addition, laws vary depending on the type of gun (e.g. handgun or long gun) in question.

### Selling

Some states require a license or permit for anyone who sells firearms. In addition, certain states,

such as California, prohibit anyone who is not a licensed dealer from selling firearms.

This means private parties will not be allowed to deal with the sale of firearms unless they go through a licensed dealer.

When it comes to selling in gun shows, some states require background checks and other additional requirements for sellers.



## Purchasing

Some states, such as Hawaii and New York, require gun purchasers to obtain a permit. A background check is a common requirement in some states for anyone who wishes to buy a gun.

## Open and Concealed Carry

Open carry means the firearm is carried in plain sight, while concealed carry means possessing the gun, but it is hidden from view.

Most states allow open and concealed carry of guns, but some require a permit or license.

Be sure to check the specific regulation for your gun type as it differs from state to state.

Some states also include reciprocal laws, which allow you to open and concealed carry while visiting that state provided you have a permit or license valid for the state you live in.

## Restrictions of Guns in Certain Places

In addition to laws surrounding open and concealed carry, some states also have additional regulations when it comes to bringing a gun to certain areas.

Usual areas with additional requirements and prohibitions include worship venues, hospitals, sports venues, college campuses, and any place that serves alcohol.

## Safety and Stolen Guns

Some states require a locking device when transferring or selling guns. When it comes to stolen or missing guns, it is mandatory in some states to report them.

Even when it is not mandatory, it is the responsible thing to do as a legal gun owner, as stolen and missing guns are more often than not used by criminals and become an easy target for gun grabbers.





# CONCLUSION

Throughout this learning resource, we covered the ins and outs of purchasing, owning, and firing a gun, along with tips on responsible gun ownership and state gun laws.

It is worth stressing this book is not meant to be an exclusive learning resource; you should always spend time refreshing and expanding on your firearm knowledge, regardless of how experienced you are.

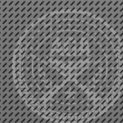
Remember: we are only as strong as our weakest link.

To help fight the war against guns, we need to step up and take responsibility as a whole. Be sure to not only practice responsible gun ownership yourself, but encourage other gun owners to do the same.





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