

# PARTS AND FEATURES OF FIREARMS

Goal: To introduce basic firearm and hunting safety principles and practices.

## Lesson 1: Parts of Firearms

In this lesson you will:

- Name the different parts of firearms.

### Identification of Firearm Parts

A firearm is made up of the following parts.



**Stock:** made of wood, plastic or other materials. It is the part of the firearm the other parts are attached to and is held against the shoulder when firing the gun. It also is called a “buttstock” or “shoulder stock.”

**Barrel:** a long metal tube the bullet or shot travels through when a cartridge is fired.

**Receiver:** the back end of the barrel where the cartridge is inserted in preparation for firing.

**Muzzle:** the front end of the barrel, opposite the receiver, where the bullet or shot will exit when a cartridge is fired.

**Action:** the set of moving parts that load, fire and unload the firearm. Guns come with different types of actions.

**Sight:** a device mounted on the barrel of a firearm that guides a shooter’s eye when aiming at a

target. Firearms may be equipped with different kinds of sights.

**Trigger Guard:** a loop that surrounds the trigger of a firearm to help prevent an unintended pulling of the trigger.

**Trigger:** a small curved lever that when pulled activates the firing mechanism of the gun to fire a cartridge.

**Magazine:** a storage device for holding additional cartridges. Firearms may have different kinds of

magazines.

**Safety:** a mechanical device designed to help prevent the unintended firing of a gun. Safety devices vary in design and operation and may be located at different places on a firearm.

## Lesson 2: Rifles, Shotguns and Handguns

In this lesson will:

- Distinguish between rifles, shotguns and handguns.

### Key Features of the Rifle

The three important features of the rifle are:

- 1) Long barrel (from 16 to 28 inches or more).
- 2) Bore,

which has “rifling” on the inside to assist in the accuracy of a single projectile, called a bullet

- 3) Butt stock, which fits into the shooter’s shoulder for firing.

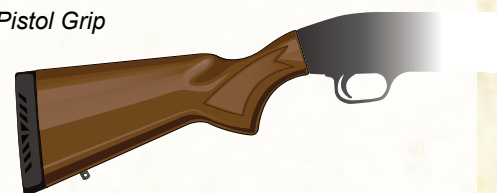
### Stock

The barrel and action are mounted on the rifle stock. The stock may be made from various materials such as:

- wood
- laminated wood
- synthetic material (black or camouflage plastic and other materials)

The butt stock is the portion that extends from the grip rearward. The four varieties of stock designs are:

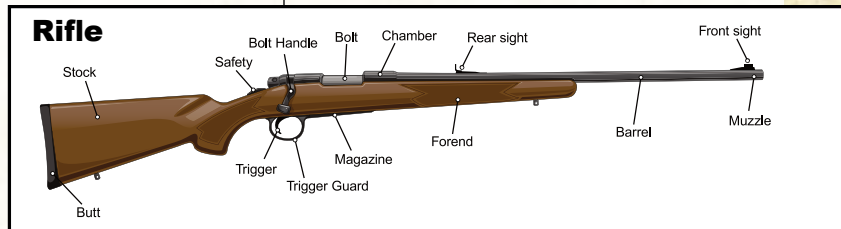
*Pistol Grip*



*Military-style Pistol Grip*

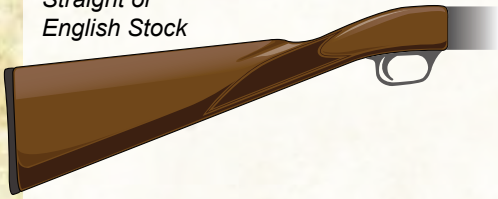


### Rifle

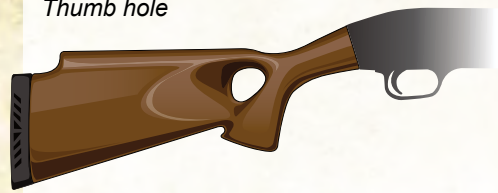




Straight or English Stock



Thumb hole



### Barrel and Bore

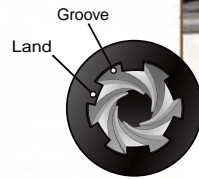
The "bore" of a firearm is the hole cut through the center of the barrel during the manufacturing process, making it basically a long metal tube.

### CALIBER:

• **Bore size:** The distance across the rifling from "land to land."



.30 caliber rifle



.30 inches



### Rifling

Rifling is a term for the "grooves" that are cut into the inside surface of the rifle barrel in a turning pattern to the right or left, making the bullet spin, which helps keep the bullet stable during flight.

Because of the long barrel and rifling, a modern rifle is capable of accurately hitting targets located 300 yards away or more." Accuracy is one reason hunters use a rifle to hunt big game such as pronghorn, deer and elk.



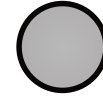
### Caliber

The caliber of a rifle or handgun

### RIFLE AND HANDGUN CALIBERS



.45, .458



.44, .444



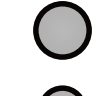
.40, 10mm



.357, .38, 9mm



.30, .30-06, .308,  
.32, 7.62mm, 8mm



.270, .280, 7mm



.22, .223, .25,  
5.56mm, 6mm

The circles show bore sizes of common calibers. Having the same bore size does not mean different cartridges are interchangeable

barrel is the measurement of the bore diameter from land to land, measured in inches or millimeters.

For example, a .30 caliber rifle barrel would have a distance of .30 inches from land to opposite land.

Depending on the manufacturer, a cartridge may be classified by the bore diameter, groove diameter or bullet diameter.

The diameter of the bullet for a rifled barrel is nearly equal to the measured distance from groove to groove. It is a very tight fit.

When a bullet passes through a barrel, the lands cut grooves into the bullet, as shown in the illustrations.

### Barrel Stamp



particular rifle barrel and the name of the manufacturer are stamped on the outside of the barrel during the manufacturing process.



Always match the correct ammunition to a firearm. Using the wrong cartridge can damage the firearm and may result in serious injury and possibly death for the shooter and bystanders.

### Rifle Sights

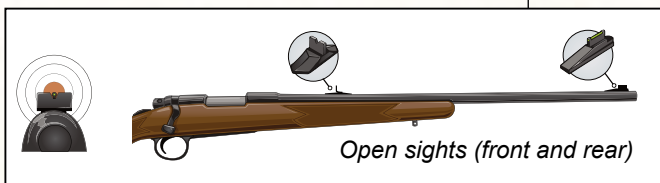
A rifle sight system is used for pinpoint aiming at a target.

The three types of sights for rifles are:

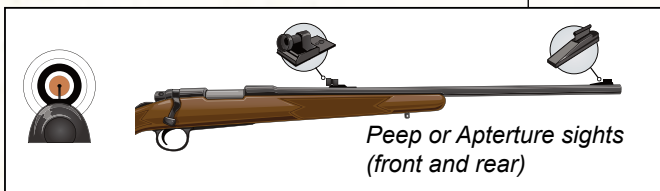
- Telescopic sight or scope
- Iron sights, which include:
  - o Open sight or scope
  - o Peep or aperture sights (front and rear)



*Telescopic sight or scope*



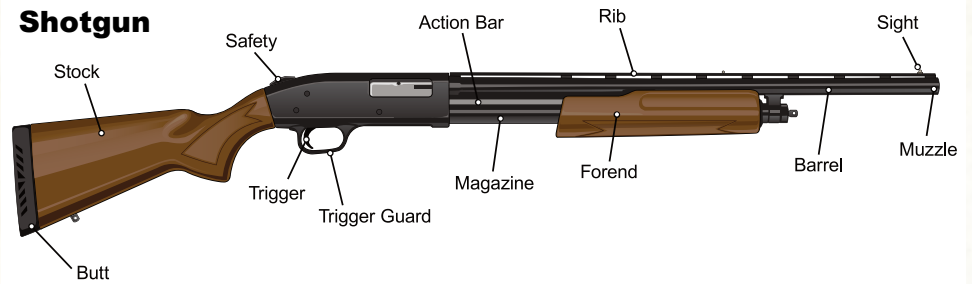
*Open sights (front and rear)*



*Peep or Aperture sights (front and rear)*

Personal preference will determine what type of sight to mount on a rifle. Telescopic sights or scopes are easy to use. The magnification allows the shooter to better see the target. Plus, scopes put the aiming point and the target on the same focal plane, which aids in accurate shot placement. Scopes are also a good choice for people with impaired vision.

## Shotgun



### Key Features of the Shotgun

A shotgun is similar to a rifle in that it has:

- A long barrel (from 18 to 28 inches or more)
- A shoulder stock.

For that reason, both shotguns and rifles are called “long guns.”

However, a shotgun is different than a rifle because the bore is smooth on the inside. It has no rifling.

The basic purpose of the shotgun is to produce a rapidly widening pattern of shot. The shotgun is effective for hunting game birds in flight, such as doves, pheasants, quail, woodcock, ducks and geese, or rabbits and squirrels on the run.

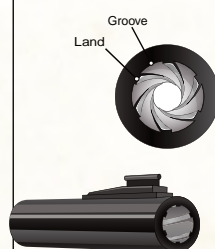
### Smoothbore

The smoothbore shotgun is ideal for firing shotgun projectiles known as “shot.” Shot usually consists of round pellets made of:

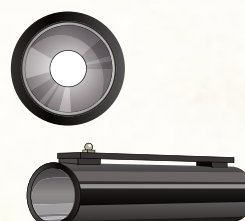
- Lead
- Steel
- Tungsten
- Bismuth

The size of the shot and the kind of material it is made of determine its use.

*Rifled barrel.*

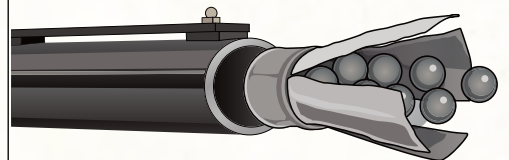
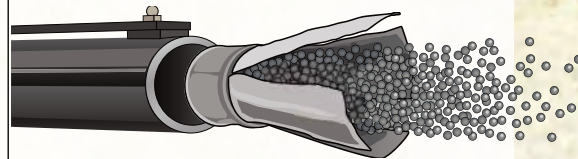


*Smoothbore.*



### Birdshot and Buckshot

A shotgun cartridge may be loaded with “birdshot” and contain hundreds of tiny pellets. The same shotgun cartridge loaded with “buckshot” may contain only a few pellets, because they are so much larger than birdshot.



Note: Only nontoxic shot may be used when hunting waterfowl. Buckshot may be used to hunt deer in some states, but is illegal in other states. Check the regulations in your state or province.

### Gauge

The measure of a shotgun bore diameter is known as its “gauge.” Standard gauges for shotguns — largest to smallest—are:

- 10 gauge
- 12 gauge
- 16 gauge
- 20 gauge
- 28 gauge

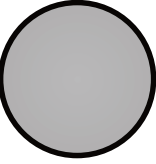
A shotgun barrel is “gauged” by how many round lead balls of the same diameter as the bore it takes to equal one pound.

There is also a .410 shotgun, which is not a gauge but rather a caliber measurement. If the .410 caliber shotgun bore is measured

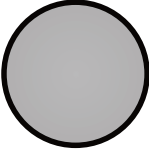


## SHOTGUN GAUGE SIZES

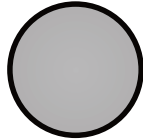
10 Gauge  
.775"



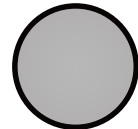
12 Gauge  
.725"



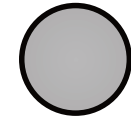
16 Gauge  
.665"



20 Gauge  
.615"



28 Gauge  
.545"



.410 Bore  
.410"



Sizes shown are the minimum inside bore diameter with a tolerance of +0.020". Data is presented courtesy of SAAMI.



## Barrel Stamp

The cartridge classification of a particular shotgun barrel - including gauge, maximum cartridge length and the name of the manufacturer - is stamped on the outside of the barrel during the manufacturing process.

Always match the correct ammunition to a firearm. Using the wrong cartridge can damage the firearm and may result in serious injury and possibly death for the shooter and bystanders.

as a gauge, the result would be a 68 gauge.

## Choke

At the muzzle end of the shotgun barrel is a "choke." The purpose of the shotgun choke is to control shot patterns for when you are shooting at closer or more distant game. Four commonly recognized choke sizes are:

- Cylinder bore—no choke
- Improved cylinder—produces slightly tighter patterns than no choke
- Modified cylinder—produces an even tighter pattern and increases range over the two previous chokes
- Full choke—very tight choke for tight shot patterns out to greater distance

Shotgun barrels may be equipped with different types of chokes including:

- fixed
- variable
- interchangeable



Fixed Choke



Interchangeable chokes

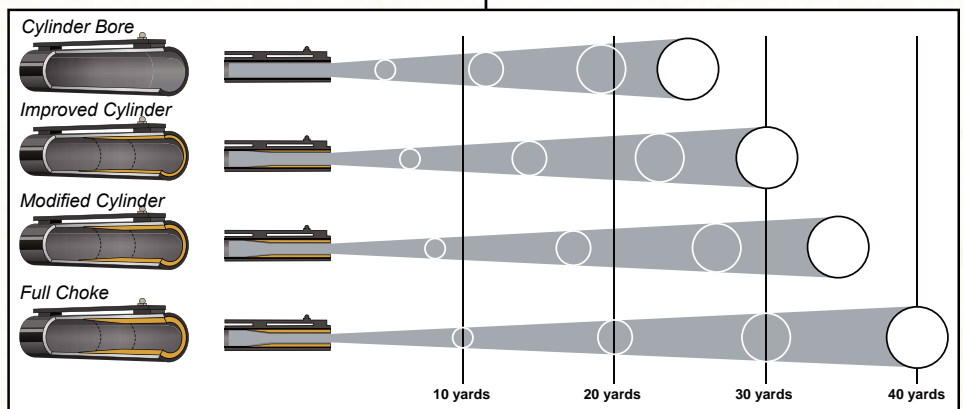


Variable Choke

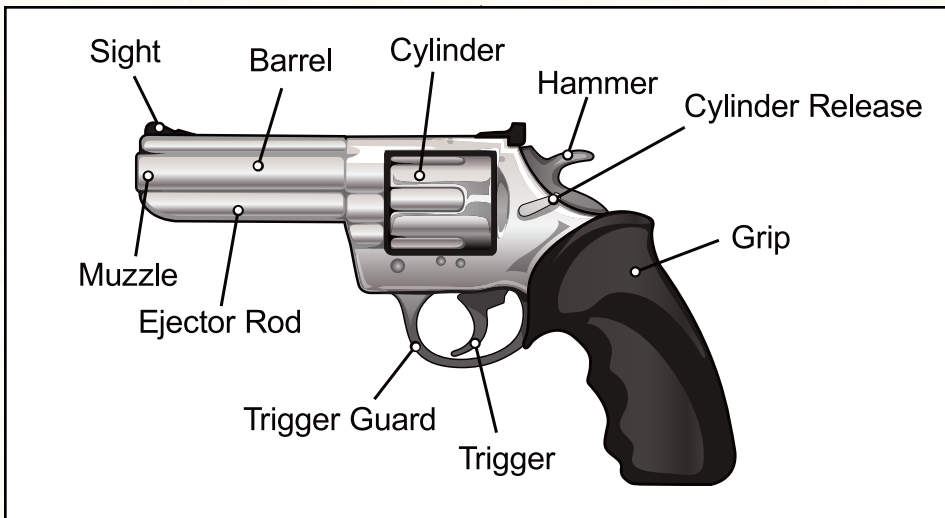


## Shotgun Sight

The shotgun has a front sight and a "rib" that extends from the breech to the muzzle to help with accurate shot placement. There is no rear sight on a shotgun barrel.







## Key Features of the Handgun

The handgun, also called a pistol, has the following features:

- A short barrel (less than 15 inches)
- A rifled bore, which aids in accuracy by causing the bullet to spin in flight to the target.
- A grip (instead of a shoulder stock), which is held by the hand operating the trigger.

## Barrel Stamp

Like the rifle and shotgun, cartridge

classification for the handgun is stamped on the gun barrel.

A handgun fires a single projectile.



*When hunting with a handgun, you should use some kind of rest to steady the gun.*

Because of its short barrel, the handgun is accurate at much shorter distances than a rifle.

## Variations on Guns and Ammunition

Some rifles, shotguns and handguns are designed by the manufacturer to accept interchangeable barrels or they may fire different kinds of ammunition.

For example, there are cartridges for use in rifles and handguns that are loaded with shot pellets. When fired from a rifle or handgun, these shot cartridges may be effective for hunting varmints, such as mice and rats.

Also, a smoothbore shotgun may be loaded with a cartridge that has a single projectile, known as a “slug.” The slug cartridge can be effective for hunting deer, but only at close distances — 25 to 50 yards — because the smoothbore has no rifling to support accurate bullet travel over longer distances.

Some shotguns are designed to accept different barrels. The smoothbore barrel may be

**Always match the correct ammunition to a firearm. Using the wrong cartridge can damage the firearm and may result in serious injury and possibly death for the shooter and bystanders.**

When firing a shotgun, the shooter points—does not aim—the shotgun at the target. Pointing requires focusing on the target so you can respond to its movement. Aiming requires equal focus on the target and the gun sights.

removed from the shotgun and replaced with a rifled barrel that fires a cartridge with a single projectile. A “saboted slug” fired from a rifled shotgun barrel can be accurate on targets such as deer out to 100 yards or more.

Gun manufacturers produce an owner’s manual for every firearm made. Read the owner’s manual to learn what ammunition is appropriate for that firearm, how the gun operates and how to maintain it properly. If the owner’s manual for a firearm is missing, find it online at the manufacturer’s website or contact the manufacturer for a free replacement.



*Read the owner’s manual to learn what ammunition is appropriate to use with your firearm.*

Additionally, state and federal laws govern the use of firearms and ammunition for hunting purposes.



These laws support hunter safety and also wildlife conservation, ensuring fair chase and a clean, quick kill of game animals.

### Lesson 3: Types of Firearm Actions

In this lesson you will:

- Identify the five types of firearm actions.

#### How does a firearm work?

A gun is a tool that fires cartridges. The “action” of the gun is what makes a firearm work. It is the set of moving parts that load, fire and unload the firearm.

Throughout history, many different kinds of actions have been invented. This course recognizes five types of firearm actions for rifles and shotguns most commonly used by hunters.

- Hinged-Frame or Break-Open Action
- Bolt Action
- Lever Action
- Slide or Pump Action
- Semi-Automatic Action

**Hinged-Frame or Break-Open Action** is a firearm that has one or more barrels that pivot on the frame, opening and closing the action for loading, unloading and extracting cartridges. This is a firearm that can be loaded with cartridges and fired once (or twice depending on the number of barrels), and then must be reloaded manually. There is no magazine included in this type of action for holding extra cartridges to support repeat firing.

**Bolt Action** is a firearm mechanism that has a handle or bolt that is pulled up and back to open the action and pushed forward and down to close the action, which loads, unloads and extracts cartridges. This firearm has one barrel attached to the frame with an action designed for manual repeat loading, firing and reloading of cartridges from a magazine containing additional cartridges.

**Lever Action** operates when a lever under the receiver is pushed down to open the action and extract a cartridge. When the lever is pushed up, it loads a new cartridge from a tubular magazine. This firearm has one barrel attached to the frame with an action designed for manual repeat loading, firing and reloading of cartridges from a magazine containing additional cartridges.

**Slide Action**, also called “pump action,” has a moveable forend connected to the bolt in the receiver. Moving the forend to the rear opens the action and ejects a cartridge. Moving the forend toward the muzzle loads a new cartridge and closes the action. This firearm has one barrel attached to the frame with an action designed for manual repeat loading, firing and reloading of cartridges from a magazine containing additional cartridges.

**Semi-Automatic** firearm action

operates automatically each time the trigger is pulled to fire, eject and load another cartridge for repeat firing. This type of firearm action has one barrel attached to the frame and uses the pressure from the gas of a fired cartridge to activate a spring-loaded mechanism to extract the spent cartridge and load a new cartridge from a magazine.

**Revolver** action is usually found on a handgun and consists of a cylinder with separate chambers for cartridges. By pulling back on the hammer the cylinder rotates, placing a cartridge in line for firing single action. On double action revolvers, pulling the trigger rotates the cylinder to line up a new cartridge and fire the gun.

### Lesson 4: Location and Use of Firearm Safeties

In this lesson you will:

- Explain use of the firearm safety mechanism.



*slide or pump action*



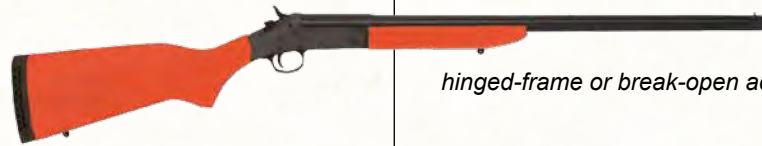
*semi-automatic action*



*bolt action*



*lever action*



*hinged-frame or break-open action*



The “safety” or “safety catch” on a firearm is a mechanical device designed to help prevent the unintended discharge of a firearm. The basic purpose of the firearm safety is to support safe firearms handling.



Because the firearm safety is a mechanical device, it can fail. Always follow basic firearm safety rules.

- **Assume** every gun is loaded.
- **Control the muzzle**—point guns in a safe direction.
- **Trigger finger**—keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- **Target**—be sure of your target and what lies beyond.

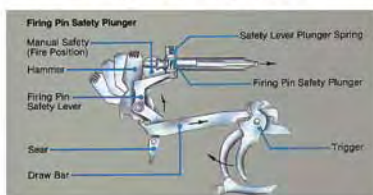
There are two categories of safeties:

- Internal Safety
- Manually Operated Safety

### Internal Firearm Safety

An internal safety is built into the firearm action to help prevent an unintended discharge. This kind of safety typically requires no effort by the user and may be difficult to

Firing Pin Safety Block



The Firing Pin Safety Plunger blocks the forward movement of the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled and held to the rear.

locate or may be out of sight. The purpose of the internal safety is to help prevent the gun from firing when the trigger is not pulled, for example, if the gun is dropped.

### Manually Operated Firearm Safety

The manually operated firearm safety may be a button or knob the user must move from the “SAFE” position to the “FIRE” position to turn the safety on or off.



Manually Operated Safety

The trigger on a gun can be activated with only a slight touch from a finger or an object such as clothing or a twig. For that reason, Fundamental Firearm Safety Rule #3 states: Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

The manually operated firearm safety, like the trigger guard, helps to prevent an unintended discharge of the gun if the trigger is touched by mistake.

The design and location of a manually operated firearm safety varies by firearm manufacturer



and type of gun. The safety may be on the front or rear of the trigger guard, on the side of the receiver, on the stock, etc.

Also, the manufacturer may have designed the safety with a security system that allows the owner to lock the system in the “safe” position with a special key.

### Determining Safe and Fire Positions

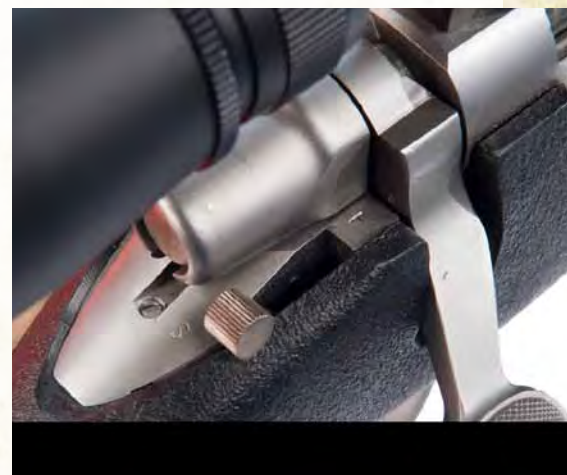
Manually operated safeties are visible and designed to allow the user to know by touch and by sight if the safety is in the “SAFE” or “FIRE” position. For example, the safety may extend beyond the frame to the left or right or be in a forward or reverse position for “SAFE” or “FIRE.”

Firearm manufacturers might label the safety with the words “SAFE” and “FIRE.”

In the “SAFE” position, the safety helps to prevent the gun from firing if the trigger is touched by mistake. In the “FIRE” position the gun will fire when the trigger is pulled.

They might use an abbreviation “S” for “SAFE” and “F” for “FIRE.”

Or they might use a color code to show that the safety is “SAFE” with a green or white dot or ring and with a red dot or ring to indicate that the gun is ready to “FIRE”—the safety is off.





Remember: a firearm safety is a mechanical device that can fail. The most important "safety" for every gun is the person who handles it. Know how the firearm operates and always follow the basic firearm safety rules.

Whoever uses the gun has the personal responsibility to know how to operate the firearm, including the safety mechanism.

## Lesson 5: Loading and Unloading Firearms

In this lesson you will:

- Demonstrate safe handling of firearms for loading and unloading.

When hunting or target shooting it's important to learn how to safely load and unload the firearm.

The procedures for loading and unloading a firearm depend on: type of firearm (rifle, shotgun and handgun); what kind of action (hinged-frame action, bolt action, lever action, pump action or semi-auto action); and the manufacturer.

This section will provide typical methods for loading and unloading common types of firearms. Consult the owner's manual from the manufacturer for instructions prepared specifically for your firearm.

## HINGED-FRAME OR BREAK-OPEN ACTION

### Loading the Hinged-Frame Firearm

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction.

Trigger finger—keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety. Some



hinged-frame or break-open action firearms do not have a manually operated safety.

Open the action. The firearm manufacturer installed a lever or button on the gun's frame that when activated will unlock the action. This will allow the barrel to swing down, exposing one or more chambers. This release lever or button can be found on the gun's receiver, but its exact placement and how it operates are different depending on the type of gun (rifle, shotgun or handgun) and the manufacturer.



Check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



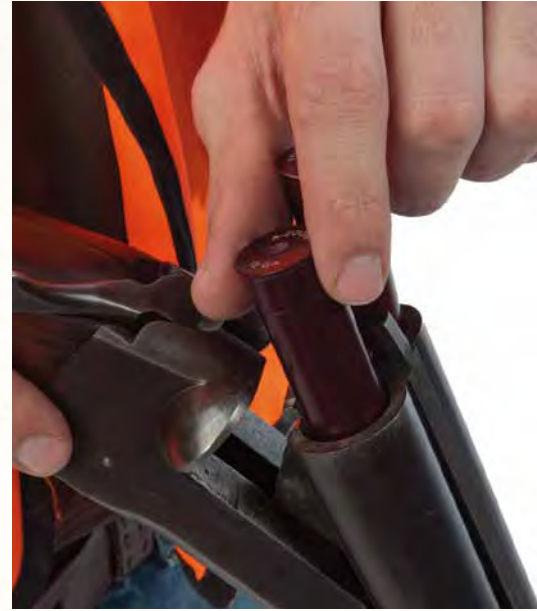
Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.

Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on

the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.



Load one or more cartridges, depending on the gun's capacity.



Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard. Close the action.

The firearm is now loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

Check that the safety is in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety.

### Unloading the Hinged-Frame Firearm

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety.

Be aware that a hinged-frame or break-open action firearm may have a spring-loaded ejector that propels the spent (empty) cartridge out of the chamber when the action is opened. To prevent live ammunition from falling into grime and dirt or becoming damaged when striking a hard surface, be prepared to catch the ejected cartridges.





Open the action.  
Locate the lever for opening the action, open the action and eject the ammunition.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

When ejecting spent or fired cartridges from a firearm, dispose of the empty cases or hulls properly or save them for reloading.

Close the action.  
Check that the safety is in the "SAFE" position, if the firearm is equipped with a manually operated safety.  
The firearm is now ready for storage.

### Loading the Bolt Action Firearm with a Box-Type Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction.



Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.  
Place the safety in the "SAFE" position.



Open the action by pulling the bolt up and to the rear.



Check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



Depress the magazine release button and at the same time remove the box-type magazine from the receiver.





Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.



Load the magazine with cartridges for that firearm. Never exceed the ammunition capacity of the firearm or the total number of cartridges allowed for hunting.



Replace the magazine in the receiver and close the action. This step pushes the bolt forward, takes a cartridge out of the magazine and places it in the chamber for firing.



The firearm is now loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

After taking a shot, the bolt action firearm is reloaded by operating bolt up and to the rear and forward, closing the action with another cartridge in the chamber ready to fire.

Check that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.

### Unloading the Bolt Action Firearm with a Box-Type Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction.

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position.

Open the action and remove the live cartridge or fired case from the chamber. Keep the action open.



Remove the box-type magazine from the receiver.



Remove all cartridges from the magazine and replace the empty magazine in the receiver.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Close the action by pushing the bolt forward and down.



Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.

The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.





## LEVER ACTION FIREARM



### Loading the Lever Action Firearm

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction.

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the “SAFE” position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety. Some lever action firearms do not have a manually operated safety. They may have different positions for the hammer to help prevent an unintended discharge or the lever must be depressed against a button on the frame for the gun to fire.

Locate the lever for opening the action.



Open the action by inserting the shooting hand into the lever and pushing down and forward.



Check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.



On some lever action firearms, there is a slot on the right side of the receiver through which to load the tubular magazine.

Load cartridges, depending on the gun's capacity.



On other lever action firearms, the tube must be removed part way, which exposes a slot into which cartridges are placed.

Load cartridges, depending on the gun's capacity. Never exceed the ammunition capacity of the firearm or the total number of cartridges allowed for hunting.

Close the action and then open and close the action again, taking care to keep fingers outside of the trigger guard. This process takes a cartridge out of the magazine and places it in the chamber, making the lever action firearm ready for firing.



The firearm is now loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the “FIRE” position and the trigger is pulled.

When the gun is loaded, but not being shot, put the rifle on half-cock by holding the hammer securely with the thumb and forefinger of the nonshooting hand. At the same time gently



pull the trigger with the trigger finger to ease the hammer down.

Check that the safety is in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety.

### Unloading the Lever Action Firearm

Control the muzzle—keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety.

Open the action and eject the cartridge from the chamber, taking care that live cartridges do not fall into grime and dirt or strike a hard surface where they may become damaged.



options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position, if the gun is equipped with a manually operated safety.



The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.

### Slide Action or Pump Action Firearm

The slide action or pump action firearm is capable of repeat firing and may have a tubular or a box-type magazine.



### Loading the Pump Action Firearm with a Tubular Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position.



After taking a shot, the lever action firearm is reloaded by pushing down and forward on the lever and back again, closing the action with another cartridge in the chamber ready to fire.



Keep the action open.

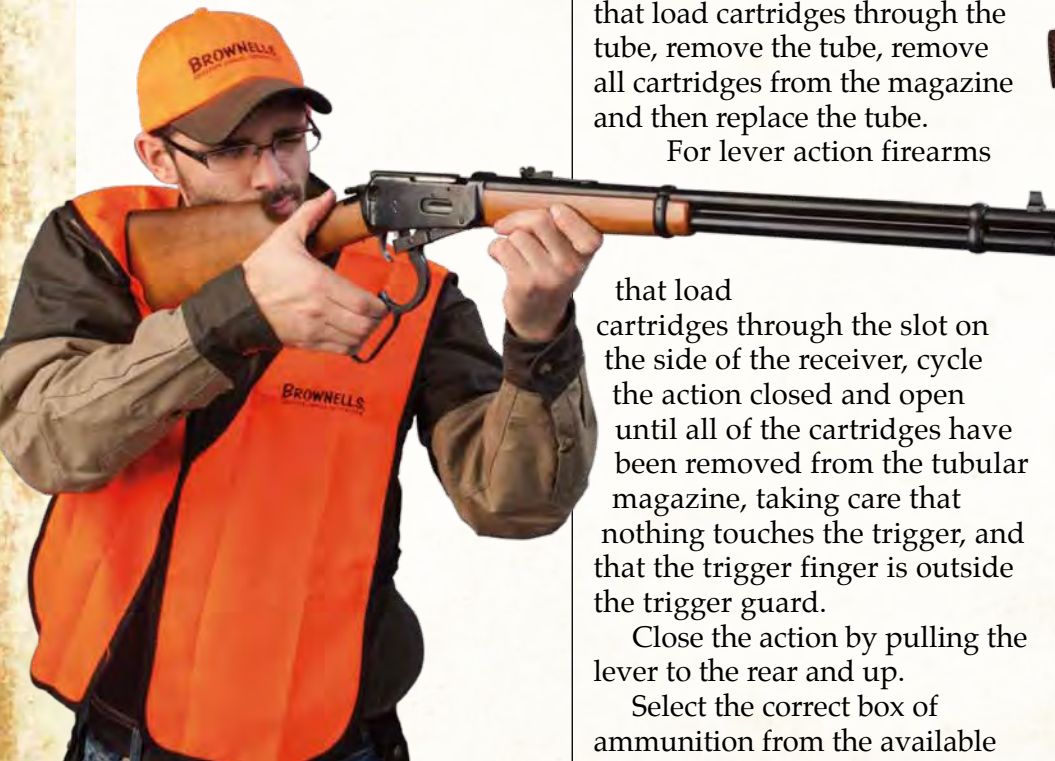
For lever action firearms that load cartridges through the tube, remove the tube, remove all cartridges from the magazine and then replace the tube.

For lever action firearms

that load cartridges through the slot on the side of the receiver, cycle the action closed and open until all of the cartridges have been removed from the tubular magazine, taking care that nothing touches the trigger, and that the trigger finger is outside the trigger guard.

Close the action by pulling the lever to the rear and up.

Select the correct box of ammunition from the available





If the slide action firearm has a tubular magazine, locate the action release button, which may be on the front or rear of the trigger guard. Locate the forend slide.



Open the action by depressing the action release button and at the same time pulling the forend slide to the rear.

Look into the ejection port and check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and



barrel stamp.

Check that the safety is in the "SAFE" position, and then turn the gun to the side to expose the open ejection port. Place one cartridge in the chamber by hand or set it on



top of the elevator.

Keep your finger outside of the



trigger guard.

Close the action by pushing



the forend slide forward.

The shotgun is loaded with one round in the chamber and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

To load the tubular magazine, turn the firearm on its side or completely over (remember

to point the muzzle in a safe direction) so that the trigger guard is facing up.

On the underside of the receiver is access to the tubular magazine. Depress the elevator and load cartridges through this opening by pushing them with one finger into the tube until the rim of the cartridge snaps when it passes the cartridge stop. Load only to capacity; never exceed the gun's capacity or the total number of



cartridges allowed for hunting. The firearm is now fully



loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

After taking a shot, the pump action firearm is reloaded by pulling the forend slide to the rear and pushing it forward, closing the action with another cartridge in the chamber ready to fire.

Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.



## Unloading the Pump Action Firearm with a Tubular Magazine

Control the muzzle—keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Check that the safety is in the “SAFE” position.

Open the action by depressing and holding the action lock button

and at the same time pulling the forend slide to the rear slowly until the cartridge clears the chamber and is lying in the ejection port. Use the free hand to remove this cartridge.



Continue pulling the forend slide to the rear until a live cartridge pops out of the tubular magazine onto the elevator.



Turn the gun so that the cartridge drops out of the ejection port and into the free hand.



Push the forend slide forward to close the action—without a cartridge being loaded into the chamber.



Turn the gun over so the trigger guard is facing upward.

Put the right thumb into the receiver to depress the cartridge stop button and one-by-one release each of the cartridges remaining in the magazine.

Turn the gun over so the trigger guard is again on the bottom. Depress the action stop button while pulling the forend slide to the rear, opening the action. Inspect the chamber, elevator and magazine tube to make certain there are no additional cartridges in the firearm.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Close the action by pushing the forend slide forward.



Check to see that the safety is in the “SAFE” position.

The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.

## Semi-Automatic Action Firearm

The semi-auto firearm is capable of repeat firing and may have a tubular or a box-type magazine.



## Loading the Semi-Automatic Action with a Tubular Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the “SAFE” position.



Locate the operating handle on the side of the receiver.

Open the action by pulling the operating handle to the rear until the carrier latch clicks into place, preventing the bolt from going forward. The action is open.







gun through the ejection port. Keep fingers away from the

cartridges into the tubular magazine until the rim of each cartridge snaps when it passes the cartridge stop. Load only to capacity; never exceed the gun's capacity or the total number of cartridges allowed for hunting.

Look into the ejection port and check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



ejection port, operating handle and outside the trigger guard.

Locate the carrier release lever. Depressing this lever / button will close the action.



The firearm is now fully loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun. Select the correct box of



ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.

The firearm is loaded with one round in the chamber and will fire if the safety is placed in the "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled.

After taking a shot, the semi-auto action firearm reloads automatically and will fire each time the trigger is pulled until the last cartridge has been fired.



Put one cartridge of the correct type for this

To load the tubular magazine, turn the firearm on its side or completely over so that the trigger guard is facing up.

On the underside of the receiver is access to the tubular magazine. Depress the carrier release lever and push additional





Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.

### Unloading the Semi-Automatic Action with a Tubular Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position.

Open the action by pulling the operating handle rearward until the cartridge has been removed from the chamber.



Repeat closing and opening the bolt until all of the cartridges have been removed from the tubular magazine.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Close the action by releasing the operating handle.

Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.

The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.

### Loading the Semi-Automatic Firearm with a Box-Type Magazine



Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Place the safety in the "SAFE" position.



Open the action by pulling the operating handle fully to the rear until the magazine follower holds the bolt in place.



Look into the ejection port and check to see there is no ammunition in the chamber.



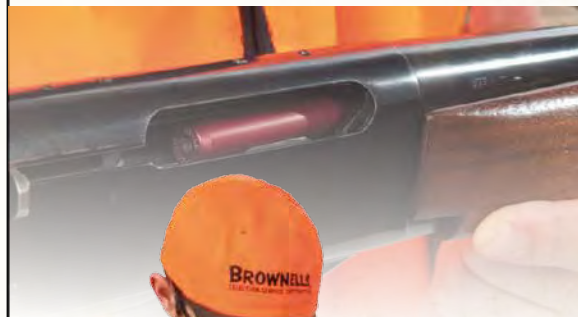
Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.



Put one cartridge of the correct type through the ejection port and into the chamber.





Keep fingers away from the ejection port and outside of the trigger guard.  
Press the bolt release to close the action.



magazine. Replace the magazine in the receiver, making sure to hear a “click” from the magazine catch indicating it is fully inserted and secure. Never exceed the ammunition capacity of the firearm or the total number of cartridges allowed for hunting.  
The firearm is now fully



position.  
Depress the magazine latch,



round in the chamber and will fire if the safety is placed in the “FIRE” position and the trigger is pulled.  
To load the box-type magazine, depress the magazine latch and pull the magazine from the receiver.  
Insert live rounds into the



remove the magazine from the receiver, and place it in a secure location.  
Pull the operating lever to the



loaded and will fire if the safety is placed in the “FIRE” position and the trigger is pulled.  
After taking a shot, the semi-auto action firearm reloads automatically and will fire each time the trigger is pulled until the last cartridge has been fired.  
Check to see that the safety is in the “SAFE” position.

### Unloading the Semi-Automatic Firearm with a Box-Type Magazine

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction  
Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.  
Place the safety in the “SAFE”

rear and remove the cartridge from the chamber.





Remove the cartridges from the magazine.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Close the action by releasing the operating handle.

Check to see that the safety is in the "SAFE" position.

The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.

## Handguns

There are many different varieties of handguns. This segment of the course will focus only on loading and unloading the double action revolver.

To safely operate handguns with other actions, consult the owner's manual from the manufacturer.

## Revolver

A revolver typically does not have a manually operated safety, but will have internal safety mechanisms to help prevent an unintended discharge if the gun is dropped, for example.

## Loading the Double Action Revolver



Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

Locate the cylinder release button on the left side of the frame behind the cylinder.



Pushing the cylinder release button while at the same time pushing on the cylinder will open the action.

Open the action.



Turn the cylinder and inspect each chamber from the rear to see that there are no cartridges in the firearm.

Check the barrel stamp to determine the correct ammunition for this gun.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options. Match information on the cartridge with the box and barrel stamp.

Load one cartridge into each chamber.



Close the action by pushing the cylinder into the frame until it locks in place.



The firearm is now fully loaded.

The double action revolver will fire each time the trigger is pulled.

Also, the double action revolver can be fired single action by first cocking the hammer and then pulling the trigger.

## Unloading the Double Action Revolver

Control the muzzle—point the gun in a safe direction

Trigger finger—keep your finger outside the trigger guard.



Open the action.



Depress the cartridge ejection rod to remove all cartridges from the cylinder at once.



Inspect the cylinder to be sure there are no cartridges remaining in the firearm.



Select the correct box of ammunition from the available options and store the live ammunition in the original box.

Close the action by pushing the cylinder into the frame until it

locks in place.



The firearm is unloaded and ready for storage.



## Lesson 6: Safe Cleaning & Storage of Firearms

In this lesson you will:

- Identify safety precautions for cleaning firearms.
- Determine which tools and solvents to use for cleaning firearms.
- Learn how to clean the barrel and stock.
- Discover how to store firearms safely.

### Safety Precautions

Regular firearm maintenance is necessary for safety. Clean the gun as soon as possible after each use. Doing so ensures the firearm is in good operating condition for the next use.

The first thing to do before cleaning a firearm is to check that the gun is not loaded.

With the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and your finger outside the trigger guard, open the action, remove any ammunition present in the chamber, and

remove the magazine (if the gun is equipped with a box magazine) or remove any cartridges from the tubular magazine.

Remove all live ammunition from the workbench. Check to see if the action works properly, use dummy rounds only. Never use live ammunition to check the action.

After completing this safety check, begin cleaning the firearm.

Disassemble the firearm for cleaning as recommended in the owner's manual from the firearm manufacturer.

### Tools and Solvents

Assemble a basic gun cleaning kit. The following items should be included in this kit.

- Cleaning rod for rifle, handgun or shotgun depending on the firearm to be cleaned



- Cleaning rod tips, including a slotted tip and bronze or nylon bristle brushes appropriately sized for the rifle, handgun or shotgun bore



- Cotton or synthetic cleaning patches sized for the gun bore
- Oil or solvent to clean, lubricate and protect the firearm parts and exterior





- Cleaning cloth or towel to wipe down the gun's exterior



## Cleaning the Barrel and Action

With the gun disassembled for cleaning, inspect all parts to see they are in good condition. After hunting in rain, ice or snow, all firearms should be disassembled from the stock, if possible, and all parts thoroughly dried.

If the barrel has been removed from the gun, look through it from breech to muzzle to inspect for any obstructions and accumulated fouling from lead, copper and powder. If the barrel is not removable, use a bore sight to inspect the inside of the barrel. Carefully remove any obstructions with the cleaning rod.

### Next, follow these steps to clean the gun.

1. Put a slotted tip on the cleaning



2. Pass the cloth patch through the gun barrel from breech to muzzle, if possible. (For lever action guns and revolvers, pass the cloth patches and bristle brushes through the



barrel from the muzzle end, taking care not to damage the crown of the muzzle.)



3. Inspect the cloth patch to see how clean or dirty the barrel is.
4. Put a bristle brush on the cleaning rod.
5. Pass the bristle brush through the gun barrel from breech to muzzle, if possible. Repeat this step several times to remove fouling from the bore.
6. Put the slotted tip on the cleaning rod and insert a cloth patch soaked in gun cleaning solvent on the tip.
7. Pass the cloth patch through the gun barrel as done





previously and let the solvent in the bore for 10-12 minutes.

8. Inspect the cloth patch to determine if the barrel is clean or dirty.

9. Repeat first eight steps until a dry cloth patch comes out clean.

10. Wet a clean cloth patch with gun cleaning oil/lubricant, pass this through the barrel to leave a light coating inside the bore, and inspect the inside of the barrel, as done at the start of this process. A clean bore should shine like a mirror from end to end when looking through it to a light. There should be no fouling or debris.

11. Wipe all external surfaces,



## Cleaning the Stock

Gunstocks may be made of:

- Wood
- Laminated wood, or
- Polymer (plastic)

Gun stocks are fitted with metal parts, such as the trigger guard and magazine well, and a rubber or synthetic butt. The wood and laminated wood stocks may have polyurethane or oil finishes. These finishes and the synthetic materials may be damaged by some cleaning solutions. Always read the labels of cleaning solutions to determine proper use before applying them to the gun stock.

Polymer (plastic) and laminated wood stocks are more durable and less likely to show wear than wood stocks. Also, polymer and laminated wood stocks are not affected by weather conditions such as water and

hot or cold temperatures. Still, after hunting in wet or snowy conditions, disassemble the firearm and allow all parts to dry thoroughly, then clean and lubricate to protect the firearm.

## Safe Storage of Firearms

State and local laws may determine how to store a firearm legally in a home or vehicle. The owner of the firearm has the responsibility to know the laws that apply to all aspects of firearm ownership.

## General Rules for Safe Gun Storage

If there is no state or local law that specifies how guns must be stored, follow these rules.

The firearm should be stored:

1. Unloaded.
2. Separate from ammunition.



including the stock, with a cleaning cloth or towel.

12. Reassemble the firearm.

If there are any problems with cleaning the firearm or with operating the action, bring it to a gunsmith for inspection and repair.







### Additional Firearm Safety Rules

- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Don't trust safety devices.
- Use only the ammunition that is correct for the gun.
- Wear hunter or blaze orange clothing when hunting.
- Use safety devices for ear and eye protection.
- Never use alcohol or drugs while hunting or shooting.
- Follow safety rules for handling and shooting firearms.
- Store firearms and ammunition separately.

from storage to inspect them for damage and rust. Apply oil to all external surfaces and return them to storage. How often to conduct this maintenance depends on how often the guns are used and the conditions inside of the storage container. If the gun cabinet or safe is dry, once per year may be sufficient. If rust appears, schedule gun maintenance more frequently or obtain materials or devices to put in the gun storage container to keep out moisture.

3. In a locked container where unauthorized persons cannot gain access to them.
4. So that moisture and extremes of heat and cold are not present.

### Additional steps to follow for safe storage:

- Trigger locks or cables are available to place on the firearm to prevent unauthorized use.
- Firearms that have internal mechanical or electrical systems

can lock the gun's action.

- "Gun Socks" are available to prevent rust and scratches to stocks and metal when guns are placed in or taken out of the storage container.

Periodically, remove guns



State or local laws may specify how guns must be stored legally in a home. A responsible firearm owner keeps up to date on laws pertaining to firearm ownership.

### Safe Storage in the Home

A major concern for storing firearms in the home is ensuring they cannot be accessed by unauthorized people, children or others who don't know firearm safety rules and/or don't have the owner's permission to handle the firearms.

Common devices to store firearms safely in the home include:

- Gun safe
- Gun cabinet
- Gun room
- Trigger locks and cables
- Other locking mechanisms to make the firearm inoperable