

Common Sense Gun Safety

- **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**

Whether you are shooting or simply handling a gun, never point it at yourself or others. Common sense will tell you which direction is the safest. Outdoors, it is generally safe to point the gun toward the ground, or, if you are at a shooting range, toward the target. Indoors, be mindful of the fact that a bullet can penetrate ceilings, floors, walls, windows and doors.

- **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.**

When handling a gun, people have a natural tendency to put their finger on the trigger. DO NOT touch the trigger unless you are actually preparing to fire the gun.

- **Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to fire.**

If you do not know how to check to see if a gun is loaded, leave it alone. Carefully secure it, being certain to point it safe direction and to keep your finger off the trigger. Seek competent assistance. An untrained adult can be as dangerous as a curious child.

SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY RULES

- **Alcohol & Guns don't mix** -- Don't shoot or handle firearms after drinking or using psycho-active drugs.
- **Get training** before shooting. NRA offers excellent training programs. www.nra.org
- **Learn & follow range rules** for the location where you're shooting.
- Wear **hearing protection** and **safety glasses**.

Gun Owners' Responsibilities

Keeping guns in the home is a serious decision. Your family may have decided to keep guns in the home for various reasons, hunting, self protection or professions where guns are required. It is the individual gun owner's responsibility to understand and follow all laws regarding gun purchase, ownership, storage, transport, etc. If you choose to own a gun, you have the responsibility to store them so that they are inaccessible to children and other unauthorized people.

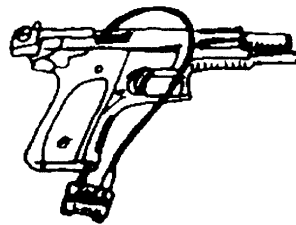
Storage Tips

Store Guns Unloaded

Store ammunition and Guns in separate locations

Lock guns and keep them out of reach of kids. Hiding guns is not enough.

Store keys for gun locks / safes in different locations from where you store household keys to keep them away from children.



Sporting goods stores and gun shops sell a wide variety of safes, cases and other security devices. While security measures may vary, a parent must, in every case, assess the exposure of the firearm and absolutely assure that it is inaccessible to a child.

Cable locks are available at the Police Department. Free of charge.

Gun Safety

**Puyallup Police Department
Problem Oriented Policing Unit
253-841-5415
www.puyalluppolice.org**



This brochure is not intended to be a complete course in gun safety and is not a substitute for formal, qualified instruction in the handling, use, or storage of firearms. The guidelines herein should be considered options to minimize the chance of an accident occurring in the home.

Parent Responsibilities

In a home where guns are kept, the degree of safety a child has rests squarely on the child's parents. Parents who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach gun safety rules will ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not. Parental responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home.

It is critical for your child to know what to do if he or she encounters a firearm anywhere, and it is the parent's responsibility to provide that training.

Some places to get training:

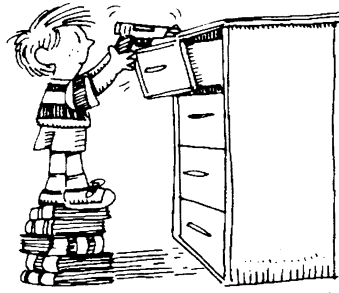
wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered

www.nrainstructors.org/

Eddie@nrahq.org

Why Teach Your Child Gun Safety

Even if you do not have a gun in your household chances are someone you know does. According to federal statistics, there are guns in approximately half of all U.S. households. Kids can still come in contact with a gun at a neighbor's house, friend's house or other circumstances away from home.



Children are naturally curious and may go looking for or snooping just for fun. By talking openly and honestly about gun safety with your child it takes some of the mystery away and is usually more effective than just ordering them just to "stay out of the gun closet".

Toy Guns vs. Real Guns

Guns are shown in movies, TV and video games. It is important to discuss with kids the difference between these settings and real life. Real guns are never a toy and a gunshot can cause severe injury or death.

Allowing kids to play with toy guns is a personal decision, as is how to respond to a child's pretend shooting during the course of play. Even if you do not allow your children to have toy guns, their friends may have them. It is important to discuss the difference between real guns and toy guns.

If your child has toy guns, you may use them to demonstrate safe gun handling and to explain the difference from real guns.

What Should You Teach Your Child About Gun Safety?

If you have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in a gun's handling and use, explain that he or she **MUST NOT** touch a gun in your home, unless you are present and have given permission. If your child sees a gun outside the home, teach him or her the following rules from the National Rifle Association (NRA)

STOP!

Don't Touch

Leave the Area

Tell an Adult

The initial steps of "**Stop**" and "**Don't Touch**" are the most important. To counter the natural curiosity to touch a gun, it is imperative that you impress these steps of the safety message upon your child.

"**Leave the Area**" is also essential, by leaving the area kids can keep themselves safe in case someone else decides to touch the gun before an adult can remove it. Under some circumstances, "area" may be understood to be a room if your child cannot physically leave the apartment or house.

"**Tell an Adult**" emphasizes that children should seek a trustworthy adult – neighbor, relative, or teacher if a parent or guardian is not available.

Some Information in the guide was condensed from "A Parents Guide to Gun Safety" published by the NRA.

Other recourses: Kids Health.org, Washington State CJTC instructor manual