

## Gun Safety Awareness

Some Americans own a gun for security reasons. Some are avid hunters or target shooters. Others can't imagine ever owning a gun. If there is one thing we can all agree on, it's the importance of gun safety.

### STORE FIREARMS SAFELY

Always store firearms unloaded and in a locked container. As an alternative, lock the firearm with a locking device to keep it from firing. Store ammunition in a location separate from the firearm, out of the reach of curious children.

### CHILDREN AND GUN SAFETY

We encourage all parents and gun owners to talk to children about gun safety. Whether you have guns in the house or not, it's essential to



talk to your children about firearms. Children are naturally curious about anything they think might be "forbidden." Guns and gunfights are featured in movies and TV shows, adding to the fascination. Sharing the rules below with your kids can help keep them safe around firearms.

1. **STOP AND TELL AN ADULT.** If your child finds or sees a firearm, he or she needs need to stop what they are doing and find an adult.
2. **DON'T TOUCH.** Tell your child to never touch a firearm that he or she finds or sees.

### SUPERVISE THE USE OF IMITATION FIREARMS

Imitation firearms such as non-powder and ball-bearing guns can cause serious injuries and even death. These guns should *only* be used with adult supervision and should always be stored and carried in a carrying case. Modifications to imitation firearms, such as removing the firearm's orange tip, are strongly discouraged. Such modifications can often make the imitation firearm appear real, creating potentially dangerous confusion.

### BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

Children learn by example. Gun owners should set a good example by practicing safe gun handling. Families that hunt and/or target shoot for sport have an opportunity to model safe, responsible gun use, and storage.

### Resources

The more you know about guns the better equipped you are to keep your family safe. Take the time to educate yourself about guns and gun safety. The resources below are great places to start.

- [Tips for Gun Owners](http://www.oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips)  
www.oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips
- [12 Things Parents Can Do to Stop School Violence](http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/school-safety/12parents.pdf)  
www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/school-safety/12parents.pdf
- [Gun Safety Tips for Parents](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/gun_safety.html)  
www.kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\_safe/home/gun\_safety.html