Firearm Locking Devices

Which one is right for you?

For more information about locking devices and the importance of safe storage of firearms, please visit

www.lokitup.org

Alternate formats available

Photos by Elle Nagie and Washington CeaseFire Foundation

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There are dozens of devices to lock your firearm.

Visit the California Department of Justice’s online roster of Approved Firearms Safety Devices at http://oag.ca.gov/firearms/fsdcertlist for a list of certified firearm safety devices. We encourage you to do your own research on individual safes and locking devices concerning the levels of security they provide before making a purchase.

Gun Vault or Safe

What it is: A safe in a variety of sizes designed to store long guns, handguns, and other valuables.

How it works: Your firearms are locked inside the vault. A push-button, combination or digital key pad opens the lock.

Features: Varies by type and model

Price: $100 to $2,000+

Advantages:
- Difficult to steal
- Allows storage of numberous long guns and handguns
- Allows storage of other personal items
- Usually fire resistant
- Keeps valuables out of sight

Disadvantages:
- Costs more than chamber locks or lock boxes
- Heavy and difficult to move

Cable Lock

What it is: A device that blocks the chamber to prevent a cartridge from being fired.

How it works: Cable locks are inserted in or through the magazine well or chamber, or are inserted through the gun barrel and chamber to block a cartridge from moving into position. A combination or key opens the lock.

Features: Metal cylinders, vinyl covered wire cables, or other designs. Locks may be “universal” or may only fit certain revolver or pistol models. Some models have anti-tamper alarms.

Price: Free to $20+

Advantages:
- Long cables may be threaded through several guns
- Inexpensive

Disadvantages:
- Thin cables could be cut

Lock Box

What it is: A small safe designed to store a handgun.

How it works: Your handgun is locked inside the box. A push-button, combination, digital key-pad, or key opens the lock.

Features: Most models have holes in the bottom to allow permanent mounting. Some have lighted locks for access in the dark. Most have padded interiors.

Price: $40 to $200+

Advantages:
- Quick access if the lock is push-button or digital
- Difficult to steal if permanently mounted
- May allow storage for more than one handgun
- Keeps gun out of sight

Disadvantages:
- Costs more than chamber locks or lock boxes

Remember – Store all firearms locked and unloaded, with ammunition locked separately.

Advantages:
- All firearm storage devices are tax-free in the State of Washington

Visit www.lokitup.org to learn more about the importance of safe storage and available safe storage discounts *

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