

## Firearm Safety Tips

The Stratham Police Department has partnered with Project ChildSafe in order to provide firearms safety kits and information on firearms safety to ensure responsible gun ownership. If you're in need of a firearm safety kit, to include a lock for your firearm, please contact Administrative Assistant Kate Drago at [kdrago@strathampd.org](mailto:kdrago@strathampd.org). For more information on Project ChildSafe please visit <https://projectchildsafe.org/> The following is information to keep in mind when you use, transport or store a firearm.

### Storage

- Firearms should always be unloaded when not in use.
- Always unload, clean and place firearms in their secure storage location immediately upon returning from shooting.
- Always store your ammunition in a locked cabinet, separate from the firearm.
- Store all firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun case or other locking carrier. Make sure they're in a location not accessible by children and cannot be handled by anyone without the owner's permission.
- Use a gun locking device which will make the firearm inoperable when not in use. This should be used as an added safety measure, in conjunction with a locked safe.
- Make sure keys or combinations to the locks are kept in a secure location so that they cannot be accessed without permission as well.

### Transport

- Make sure your firearm remains locked in a carrier and with a gun locking device even during transport.
- Consider purchasing a lockbox or electronic lockbox to put in your vehicle as an additional safety measure, to put your firearm inside.
- Continue to keep ammunition separate from the firearm until you're ready to be shooting.
- If you're traveling out of state, ensure that you're in compliance with all of that state's firearms laws.

### In-Use

- Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A safe direction is considered a direction where, if the firearm were to accidentally discharge, no one would be injured.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot. Rest your finger on the trigger guard or the side of the firearm.
- When you're shooting with other people, ensure that you always know where everyone is. Ensure that no one is down range or in an improper location when you start to fire your weapon.
- Take a local gun safety or hunting safety course to learn proper firearms use techniques.

### **Remember**

The best tool for safe and proper firearm ownership is knowledge. Stay informed and stay up-to-date with changing firearm legislation to ensure that you're being a responsible gun owner.