

Let common sense rule when you carry a loaded gun. If you're in a situation that could risk accidental discharge — such as crossing a fence, wading through a stream or climbing a tree — always unload your gun. Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward you, self or another person. And never carry a loaded gun in a scabbard, detached holster or gun case.

Certain firearms (including some Remington® rifles and shotguns) are equipped with internal security devices to prevent unauthorized use. In addition, some firearm owners use external devices, such as cable locks and trigger locks, for the same purpose. Even if you use such a device, you should still keep your firearm unloaded when stored or not in use. And using internal or external devices cannot substitute, however, for securing your firearm and ammunition in a separate, locked location.

Safe storage of firearms is just as critical as safe handling. Never store guns loaded. Be sure to keep your firearms in a secure place where unauthorized persons cannot get their hands on them without your knowledge.

Take special care if there are children around. Kids are fascinated by guns. It's a natural curiosity that can have tragic consequences when not properly supervised. Store your firearms in a locked gun safe or some other location that physically bars a child from gaining access.

Ammunition should be stored and locked in a location separate from your firearm. Never leave an unsecured firearm or ammunition in a closet, dresser drawer or under the bed. Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that children and others unfamiliar with firearms cannot get access to your firearm and ammunition.

3rd COMMANDMENT

Don't Rely on Your Gun's Safety

Treat every gun as if it can fire at any time, whether as a result of pressure on the trigger. Your firearm has been carefully designed to maximize performance and safety. However, because a gun's safety is a mechanical device, it could fail.

Human error is a more likely reason for a gun safety failure. By mistake, you may think the safety is on when it really isn't. Or the safety may have been disengaged without your knowledge. Or you could think your gun is unloaded when there's actually a cartridge or shell loaded. Mechanical safety is not a substitute for common sense. It's merely a supplement to your proper handling of a firearm.

Never touch the trigger of a firearm until you're ready to shoot. Keep your fingers away from the trigger when you're loading or unloading. And don't pull the trigger when the safety is engaged or positioned between safe and fire.

Before using your gun, read the instruction book to understand the exact location and operation of your firearm's safety. Even when the safety is on, maintain control of your loaded firearm and control the direction of the muzzle. In other words, don't rely on your safety to justify careless handling. If your firearm's internal mechanisms are broken or have been altered, your firearm may fire even when the safety is on. Remember, you and your safe gun handling practices are your gun's best safety.

4th COMMANDMENT

Be Sure of Your Target and What's Beyond It

You can't stop a shot in mid-air, so never fire unless you know exactly where your shot is going and what it will strike. Never fire at a sound, a movement or a patch of color. A hunter in camouflage can easily be mistaken for a target by an impulsive shooter. Before you pull the trigger be absolutely sure of your target and what's behind it. Make sure the shot has a backstop such as a hill side or dense material like sand. Remember, bullets can travel great distances with tremendous velocity. Know how far your shot will go if you miss your target or the bullet ricochets.

