

5th COMMANDMENT

Use Proper Ammunition.

Every firearm is designed to use a certain caliber or gauge of ammunition. Using the wrong ammunition, mixing ammunition or using improperly reloaded ammunition can cause serious personal injury or death. A shell or only takes one cartridge or shotshell of the incorrect caliber or gauge, or which has been improperly reloaded, can destroy your firearm. It's your responsibility to make sure the ammunition you use exactly matches the caliber or gauge of your gun. Refer to this instruction book to find out the specific requirements of your firearm. Always read and heed the instructions on ammunition boxes.

Confusing shells or cartridges can cause serious personal injury or death and destroy your firearm. Examine your shells or cartridges closely and use only the precise caliber or gauge for your specific firearm. For example, suppose you accidentally loaded a 20 ga. shell into a 12 ga. shotgun. Because the 20 ga. shell is too small for the chamber, the 20 ga. shell could travel down the barrel and get lodged in the barrel. If you then loaded a standard 12 ga. shell behind it and fired, the 12 ga. shot will slam into the lodged 20 ga. shell and may cause the barrel to explode right in your hand. This is commonly called a 12/20 burst, and it can kill you.

Check an ammunition before you load it to make sure it matches your gun's requirements. Every Remington® cartridge and shell is head-stamped with its caliber or gauge for easy identification. Likewise, you'll find the caliber or gauge of your new Remington® firearm imprinted on the barrel.

Reloading Requires Extra Diligence

If you're an ammunition reloader, you are responsible for personally verifying that the loads and components of your reloaded ammunition meet your gun's factory-tested standards. Never use ammunition which has been reloaded by someone else!

Many shooters handicap as a hobby or to save money on commercial, factory-made ammunition. However, it requires a thorough knowledge of reloading procedures and a deep respect for the explosive potential of gunpowder.

Firearms are designed, manufactured and proof-tested to standards based on factory-loaded ammunition. Hand-cased or reloaded ammunition that deviates, either intentionally or accidentally, from load or component recommendations can be very dangerous.

Reloaders must observe all possible safety precautions and practices related to the proper handling of explosives. Whether you're a seasoned reloader or just starting out, you should always be cautious, when reloading cannotations and talk to experienced reloaders.

The first rule of reloading is to always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the components you're using. They'll tell you to follow certain guidelines. Namely:

1. Don't mix or swap the powder and primers.
2. Don't use unlabeled or suspect brand primers.
3. Use only suitable components that have been properly tested by reputable ammunition powder manufacturers.
4. Always be sure to use the manufacturer's recommended procedure when reloading.

Not following these guidelines could result in severe injury to yourself or severe damage to your firearm. Dangerously high pressure and explosions can result from an overcharge of powder or other deviations from established reloading guidelines. Be very careful. This process of reloading exposes you to environmentally hazardous material. Lead, which is known to cause cancer and birth defects, is the most common substance in bullets and shot. It is important to handle lead bullets and shot with extreme care. Work only in a well-ventilated area and always wash your hands after exposure and before eating. Never smoke while reloading.

Primers and powders are almost only toxic and flammable. So after reloading be sure to clean up all materials from your work area. Don't leave primer or powder spilled anywhere on the floor or bench top. Dispose of all waste material in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Finally, when reloading or handloading, concentrate on what you're doing at all times. Do not be distracted by talking to others, listening to the radio or watching TV while reloading. Never reload after consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs of any kind. You are working with extremely hazardous materials and you can't risk even a few seconds of distraction. Remember, if you reload, you are the ammunition manufacturer and you are responsible for the performance and safety of your reloaded ammunition.