

Storage location requirements

All firearms licence holders must have secure storage for firearms and ammunition inspected and approved, even if they do not possess any firearms or ammunition.

Most licence holders have their primary secure storage at home. They may nominate another location for their secure storage but it must be approved. Each security location nominated by the licence holder or applicant will be inspected. Conditions related to secure storage locations may be imposed on a licence where appropriate.

The overarching principles for secure storage are that it must:

- (a) ensure that children and other unauthorised or vulnerable people do not have access to the firearms and ammunition
- (b) ensure that firearms are stored separately from ammunition
- (c) prevent the opportunistic theft of the firearms or ammunition.

Top Tip

Licence holders or applicants with approved storage should have a back up plan if they are unable to take firearms to the approved location due to unforeseen circumstances. For example, they may be travelling with the firearm or hunting late at night, or a state of emergency leaves them stranded elsewhere. An example could be a rack and padlock plus a separate lockable place for ammunition. A rack should be hidden from sight such as in wardrobe or ceiling space.

Four easy steps for secure storage



1 Unload

Keep firearms unloaded and securely locked away.



2 Secure

Away from where children or unauthorised or vulnerable people can access it.



3 Lock away

Ammunition secured separately, locked away from firearms.



4 Separate

Ammunition and firearms keys stored separately.

Want to know more?

Visit our website for more advice on firearms safety and compliance:

firearmssafety.govt.nz

Secure Storage of Standard Firearms and Ammunition



**Firearms Safety
and Education**
New Zealand

Firearms Safe

Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand recommends the use of a commercially manufactured steel safe for the storage of standard (non-restricted) firearms, such as rifles and shotguns. A properly installed safe is a secure and convenient way to safely store firearms when they are not being used.

A firearm safe should:

- be suitably constructed with steel walls and a door made of 3mm thick steel, or be of equivalent braced strength
- have a suitable locking system
- be secured to two surfaces of the building with fixtures of at least 6mm diameter x 75mm long with at least 50mm of thread into a suitable surface like a wall stud or floor beam
- be installed in a location out of sight of external windows or visitors to the premises.



Firearms Rack

A lockable steel firearm rack can be a suitable and cost-effective way to secure one firearm.

A firearm storage rack should:

- be steel or a material of equivalent strength
- be secured to the building with fixtures of 6mm x 75mm long, with at least 50mm of thread into the support, such as a wall stud or ceiling rafters
- be installed in a location hidden from sight such as a ceiling space or wardrobe
- have firearms made inoperable when possible, such as by removing the bolt.



Ammunition

All ammunition must be stored in its own locked storage container, separate from firearms. This ensures that if unauthorised people gain access to a firearm, they will not be able to easily access ammunition.

Ammunition can be secured in:

- a lockable ammunition compartment that is fixed within a firearm safe
- a lockable cabinet or stout cupboard
- a locked cashbox or locked ammunition box hidden away or locked away from the firearms storage.



Keys and Access Codes

The keys and access codes to the firearms storage must be different from those for the ammunition storage, and must only be accessible by approved firearms licence holders.

Keys to access firearms and ammunition must be:

- stored separately from one another
- either concealed or secured in a key lockbox away from the firearms storage
- stored in a location with access only by approved firearms licence holders.

Note:

Firearms which require an endorsement like pistols or restricted firearms require a higher level of secure storage. For full guidance on the options for secure storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition use visit our website.