

Introduction

It may sound intimidating, but caring for your gun is easier than you think.

Cleaning and maintaining your guns preserves their functionality and value, and keeps them safe and accurate. The effort and attention you put into maintaining your firearms will pay off in peace of mind that your guns will do what you need them to do.

<http://www.nrapublications.org/media/1535077/nraguidefornewshooters.pdf>

Cleaning Steps

- 1) Choose a work area that is well-ventilated and well-lit.
- 2) Remove all ammunition from the area.
- 3) Set out your supplies.
- 4) Find the owner's manual from the manufacturer. It should explain how to take the gun apart and clean it.
- 5) Once you have the gun disassembled, start with cleaning the bore. Clean from breech to muzzle whenever possible.
- 6) Use a cleaning rod of the correct diameter. They generally come in .22-cal., .30-cal. or shotgun/muzzleloader diameters.
- 7) Start with solvent-wetted patches to loosen the fouling. After you've run three patches through the bore, it should be ready for the bore brush.
- 8) Thread the brush to the cleaning rod and wet the bore brush with solvent. Ten passes with the brush should be enough. Run three more wet patches through the bore to pick up the fouling loosened by the bore brush. Repeat this process until your patches appear clean.
- 9) Wipe down the cleaning rod before finishing up with dry patches.
- 10) Run a patch lightly soaked with oil down the bore. Beware: Oil in the bore can create excessive pressure, a dangerous condition. Run a dry patch down the bore before you shoot your gun again.
- 10) Once cleaning is complete, reassemble the gun right away.
- 11) After you have reassembled the gun, check the safety and the trigger for proper function.

Cleaning



Gun Safe



Proper Gun Storage

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store

guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.

For transport, shooters use hard or soft cases depending on circumstances and preference. Airlines require hard-shell locking cases, but for driving to the range or hunting areas, most owners rely on lightweight soft cases.

Gun Storage Options

- Gun safes
- Pistol lock boxes
- Locking drawers
- Quick-access devices
- Gun cases
- Locks that attach to the gun