



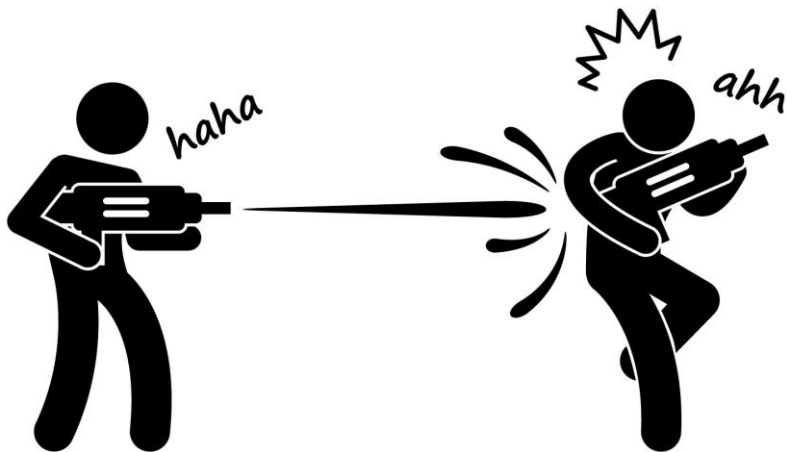
12 Gun Handling Rules + Plus

Do Not Break These Rules!



#1 Respect the Gun.

- Treat all guns as if they are loaded. Even toys!
- Accidents happen! Develop safe habits now and avoid regrets later.
- RECOIL is also a source of injury. Plan on it, expect it, and control the gun from kicking back at you. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, so keep a firm grip on it to minimize muzzle jump and maintain your sight picture. Practice will develop this skill.



- Some pistols have sharp edges that are capable of cutting your hand from rapid slide movement. Make sure your hand is snugly UNDER the beavertail to avoid an unexpected slice.
- No horseplay! A gun is a dangerous tool in the hands of the wrong person.



#2 Watch where you point it.

- Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times. NEVER NEVER NEVER point the gun, regardless if you think it's loaded or not, at anything or anyone you do not intend to kill.
- Remember when Mom said “Don’t run with scissors!” Watch where you point the muzzle when loading it, going up and down stairs, and running with the gun.
- Many accidents happen when the gun falls over in storage and something hits the trigger. Control where it could fall. Never leave it leaning against something while loaded. If it can fire a round while falling over, there’s almost a guarantee that it will happen.

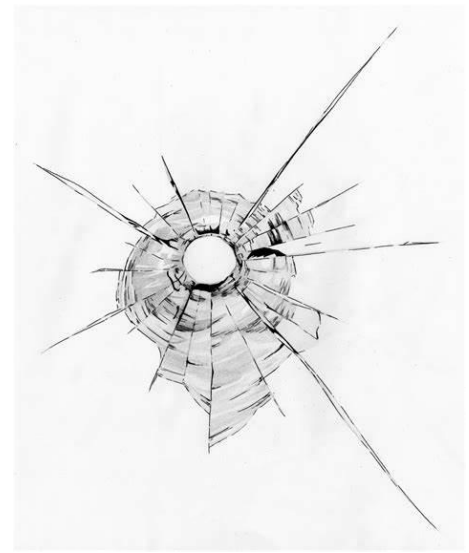
#3 Keep off the Trigger!



- Keep your finger off the trigger until or unless you have intention to shoot.
- Keep your finger above the trigger. When ready to shoot, use only the tip of the finger. Curving your finger around the trigger will push the whole gun to one side and your aim will be off.
- A revolver does not have a manual safety. The trigger has two stages; you can feel this when pressing it. The first stage rotates the cylinder to the next bullet position in line with the barrel. The second stage fires the gun. The spring force is higher than on a pistol, asking you a question when pressing the trigger: “Do you really want to shoot this thing I’m aimed at?” (Which could be your foot.) The trigger spring force is intentionally designed to be that way.
- Be certain of what you are aiming at before pressing the trigger, and what’s in back of it. Only aim a gun at whom you intend to kill.

#4 Muzzle Management

- Know your target and what's beyond / behind it.
- Many a sad story is told of gang drive-by shootings that go through walls and kill innocent children and others not intended to be hit. Drywall, wood, glass, and aluminum siding are like paper to a bullet.
- Shooting a shotgun inside a house, especially with a shell containing buckshot, will pretty well devastate the house. But if it means your safety vs. the china cabinet, you can always buy new china.



- Never hold a gun by its barrel with your fingers over the muzzle. Goodbye fingers. No matter if you are reloading it, clearing a malfunction, or cleaning it.
- Think of the muzzle, the “business end of the gun,” having a laser extending indefinitely from the muzzle of your gun. So anything — or anyone — in that imaginary laser’s path would be in the path of a bullet that’s fired. While your body can move, and even while the gun can turn, the muzzle must always be in the safest direction possible.
- In fact, you can buy a laser attachment for any gun to help aim it.

#5 Stay in Practice – Take Lessons

- Practice with *at least* one full box of 20 bullets. Use FMJ (full metal jacket) ammo for practice, it's cheaper, and HP (hollow point) for protection (it's more lethal).
- If you haven't fired a gun since your first BB gun, you really need to take lessons again. Find an instructor at a local range or join a club. It's not only fun competition, it increases your comfort with the whole big picture.



Can you spot the number of things wrong in this picture?

- The stock is about 5 inches too long for her.
- Her head is on her arm, not the stock.
- She's grabbing the trigger with 2 fingers, not one, giving a loose grip. As soon as she fires it will all come back in her face and she'll be bleeding.
- She's not wearing proper eye and hearing protection.

Don't be like this girl.



Photo by Hessam Nabavi

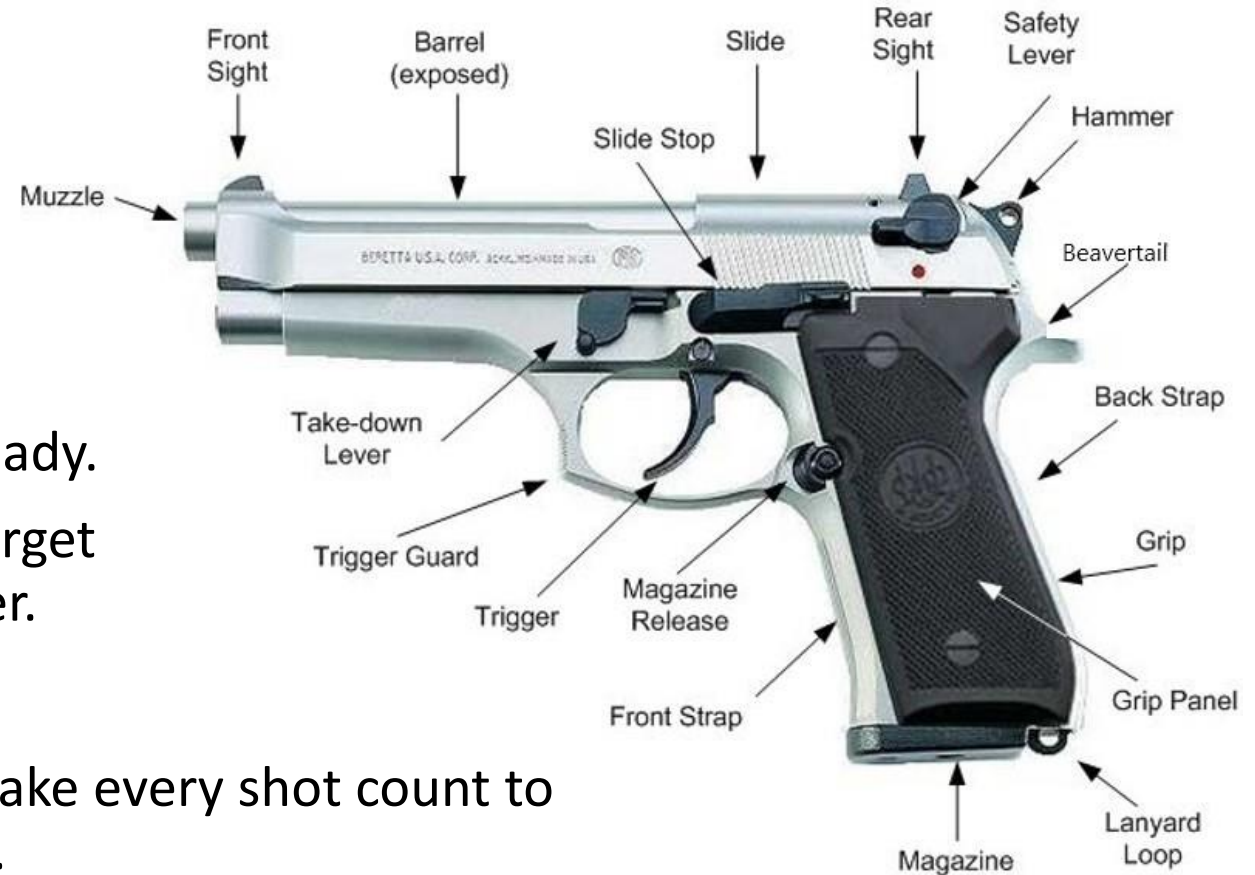
#6 Establish your grip and stance to manage the recoil and maintain sight picture.

- Sight alignment MUST be established on the target.
- Never try to shoot from the hip or a random shot. First of all it wastes precious ammo, then it endangers the innocent. Forget the TV-Hollywood thing.
- With a pistol or revolver, use both hands one under the other. Lock your elbows straight out or the recoil will kick the gun back at you.
- With a shotgun, have the stock firmly into your shoulder and your cheek pressed hard against the stock to establish aim.
- If standing to shoot either gun, lean slightly into it and keep the knees slightly bent. If you are too rigid the recoil will knock you off balance.



#7 Manage the Mechanics before attempting to fire

- Make sure a round is loaded in the chamber.
- Is the magazine or cylinder loaded correctly?
- Release the manual safety (if equipped) before attempting to fire.
- If possible, use both hands to hold the gun steady.
- Align the front sight to the rear sight on the target while keeping the trigger finger OFF the trigger.
- Double check that your manual safety is OFF.
- Do not “unload” the weapon on the threat; make every shot count to save ammo and disable the immediate threat.
- Do Not attempt to disable the safeties or modify the gun yourself. That’s for gun doctors to do. You wouldn’t operate on your own baby’s heart; so treat your gun like your baby.



#8 Keep stored securely



- Always secure your gun from unauthorized persons.
- If a child has access to a firearm, the owner is responsible. This means arrest and prison time for **you**, as gross negligence is a federal offense.
- Always follow the laws of your state regarding keeping a gun locked up and inaccessible to children.
- You can use a gun safe, but the whole safe can be dragged off and stolen. And “they” know where to look for them in your house.
- If the safe is large and bolted to the floor, you stand a better chance, but a crowbar can still loosen it.
- Some states have also outlawed keeping ammo in the gun, requiring separate storage. But how then can you use it quickly, to defend yourself?

#9 Shoot to Stop the Threat

GT-SSC-MWG-BLK

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Standard and Custom Targets for the
American Firearms Enthusiast

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in the U.S.A.
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Shooter	Date
Distance	Caliber
Powder Load	Bullet Gr.
Notes	

- “We do not shoot to wound, we do not shoot to warn, we shoot to stop the threat. **Whether the attacker who was trying to kill you lives or dies isn’t your problem.** Your one and only goal is to survive the encounter; whether the attacker survives is up to the emergency responders that you will call as soon as you have stopped the threat. (Interestingly, with prompt medical attention, about 73% of people shot with handguns will survive.)” From Mo Rockwell, *Freedom’s Lodge*.
- *Even expert marksmen take a risk attempting to shoot to wound an arm or leg. That’s Hollywood fantasy-dreaming. Always go for the largest target, the chest area.*
- “Remember that every single bullet may have only cost 50 cents per round at the store, but once it leaves the muzzle of your gun it has a \$10,000 lawyer attached to it.” From Mo Rockwell, *Freedom’s Lodge*.
(And the criminal has his civil rights, and will sue YOU in Civil Court.)



Hint: Shotguns make a bigger hole than handguns.

#10 If Under The Influence, Stop!

- If the incident is occurring while you have been drinking or consuming strong opioids or recreational drugs, don't touch the gun. Don't even THINK about touching the gun. Get out, get away, and find another way to protect your family.
- Firing a gun at anyone while “under the influence” will get you a one way ticket to prison, regardless of the circumstances. Law Enforcement is totally intolerant of reckless endangerment situations; which “side” you're on will be meaningless in court.
- The truth is, your judgement will be impaired in so many ways: is the target clear of bystanders? Are you sure the background is safe? Is the target armed or a serious threat to you, or your family's lives (or is it just a neighbor or relative?) Could you safely handle the gun without hurting yourself in the process?
- Just call 911 and get OUT of there. It's not worth the battle. You're not in an Old West Saloon, drinking with John Wayne in a spaghetti western movie.



#11 Use the correct ammunition for the gun

- The operating manual for your new gun states specifically what the proper ammo should be, and how it is identified. Attempting to use something different, for example 357 magnum in a handgun only rated for .38 or .38+P will not fit. The .357 is too long. But .38 fits in a .357!
- Using 9mm ACP ammo in a revolver rated for .38 ammo, won't fit either.
- Putting .380 ammo in a 9mm magazine will jam it – too small.
- For shotguns, using a quail load smaller than buckshot might not be as effective, except at closer distances.
- Don't buy old, cheap, or reloaded ammo. Guns will misfire or jam up on it. Stick with better reputation manufacturers. Ask your dealer for their recommendations.



#12 Clean it once in a while

- Taking good care of your gun is a must. Rust and dirt will leave it inoperable when you need it the most.
- Consult your operating manual for how to do it, and take it to a gun doctor for a thorough cleaning and oiling annually.
- Oil must be used sparingly. It gunks-up with time and can leave the gun inoperable. Make sure you use oil for guns only.
- Keep it stored in a dry dust-free place. Rust is your big enemy.
- Wipe it down after handling it. Fingerprints make rust.





Gun Safety Rules Summary

GUNS SHOULD ALWAYS BE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.
UNLOAD ALL FIREARMS WHEN NOT IN USE.
NEVER TOUCH THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU'RE ON TARGET.

STORE GUNS IN A SECURE LOCATION.
A GUN IS A TOOL OF LAST RESORT.
FIRE ONLY AT VERIFIED TARGETS.
EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR FIREARMS.
TRAIN FREQUENTLY AND WITH PURPOSE.
YOU OWN EVERY BULLET YOU FIRE.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

Accidents don't just happen – they are caused by ignorance or the disregard of safety rules. The following safety rules should be learned and practiced until they become a habit – yours!

I

TREAT EVERY GUN WITH RESPECT, AS IF IT'S A LOADED GUN.

II

WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Be able to control the direction of the muzzle even if you should stumble.

III

BE SURE THAT THE BARREL AND ACTION ARE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you only have ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.

IV

BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.

V

UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE. Take down or have actions open. Guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.

VI

NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT. Avoid all horseplay when handling a firearm.

VII

NEVER CLIMB A FENCE OR TREE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN. Never pull a gun towards you by holding the muzzle.

VIII

NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER. At target practice, be sure that your backstop is adequate.

IX

STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

X

AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE OR AFTER SHOOTING. Follow these rules and practice safe shooting!

(Information taken from **A Hunter's Handbook**, edited by Tim Ivins.)

👉👉👉 8 Aftermath Rules

*You shoot to stop the threat
(who **must be inside** your home). Then:*

1. Your house alarm has activated and you have called 911.
2. You articulate to police that you were afraid for your life.
3. You articulate that you shouted warnings first: “Get Out! I have a gun!”
4. You tell them how you called 911 and requested help, including police AND EMS.
(NEVER admit “I shot them!”)
5. You advise police that it was your legally owned firearm that was stored as per local laws prior to the break-in/ assault. Be prepared to forfeit the gun without argument.
6. Yes, you will give a full statement, but you are too distraught and upset to do so *right now* since you were in fear for your life and the life of your family. (You have the right to remain silent.)
7. You call an attorney and have them go with you to any interviews with authorities.
8. If there are witnesses, get their names before you forget and they have left.



Last Notes: Things to NEVER DO, no matter how tempted you are....



There are many bits of bad advice floating around out there. Use your common sense and don't make your situation worse.

Don't shoot the guy on your front porch then drag them inside and say they broke in. You will go prison, not them, then they will sue you in civil court.

Don't buy a stolen gun, use it, then throw it away. You will likely pay for that mistake.

Don't unload the whole magazine of bullets on one threat. Disable him with minimum fire, and save the other bullets for the next threat: they usually travel in 2's or 3's, and you will need every bullet you have. **Don't** shoot them in the back, either.

Don't tell the police you thought it was a **zombie apocalypse**. (Don't joke about it.)

Don't chase after the invaders outside especially with a gun in your hand. Police will shoot YOU.

Don't refuse to hand over your gun after you've shot it. Police will take it. Don't argue with them about it, either.