



Frequently Asked Question #37

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT GUN SAFETY?



Premise

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) presumes you have a firearm(s) and the appropriate type of licence(s) to use it. We also presume you have read all the [NSW Police Force Registry](#) information, concerning firearms, their storage, and many other important related subjects and frequently asked questions. We are not trying to recreate the information that is available from the police. We are suggesting that you learn everything there is to know about firearm safety in order to protect you, your family and the community. This FAQ covers points most often discussed with residents.

Please view the Registry here: police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms.

Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

This act introduced new limits on how many firearms a person is permitted to possess.

National Firearms Amnesty

The Amnesty aims to reduce the number of unregistered firearms by allowing for firearms or firearm-related articles to be surrendered *anonymously* to a police station or to a participating firearm dealer *without fear of prosecution*.

Anyone can hand in a firearm.

Make sure the firearm is unloaded and separate from any bullets for transporting. Learn more about safely transporting firearms on the Registry.

Learn more at the National Firearms Amnesty website: crimestoppers.com.au/firearmamnesty/.

Genuine Reason

You must have a genuine reason to obtain a licence. For example, you are a member of a target shooting club. Personal protection or protection of property are not genuine reasons.

Correct Licence

Ensure you have the appropriate type of licence for the category of firearm in your possession.

NSW Police Force Community Portal

You can apply for a firearms licence online via the **Community Portal**. You will need a MyServiceNSW Account linked to NSW Police. You can create an account through the Community Portal, by accessing <Online Firearms Applications>, then <Apply for a Firearms Licence>, then

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)

TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)

TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY/POLICE TO ATTEND NON-URGENTLY (Police Assistance Line)

POLICE COMMUNITY PORTAL (Online reporting of minor crime/lost property)

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)

TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP

SPEAK AND LISTEN

000

1 800 333 000

131 444

portal.police.nsw.gov.au

9476 9799

106

1800 555 727

ENGLISH

<Log in> (small NSW Waratah logo). From the MyServiceNSW Log in screen you are offered the option of creating a MyServiceNSW Account.

Safe Storage

Safe storage requirements are ***not optional***. They are put in place in order to prevent your guns from being stolen and getting into the hands of an unauthorised person.

A safe storage check may be carried out via cloud-based video conferencing, such as Zoom.

Do not arrange for a firearm inspection with the local police, and then give the firearm storage keys to another person ***unless they have a valid and appropriate firearm licence***.

Imitation firearms

Imitation or replica firearms look like the real thing and thus require a permit. A Gel Blaster (a type of 'air gun') is illegal in NSW.

A child's toy (eg water pistol) is not an imitation firearm and is identified as such by an orange/red tip.

Dwellings

You must safely store your firearm in your **home** or **principal place of residence**.

An **uninhabited dwelling** is considered a structure that is ***not your primary residence*** (eg a hobby farm, weekender or secondary farm). It also includes a structure where you have your firearms stored that is ***out of sight*** of your house. If you store firearms at an uninhabited dwelling, you **must** put in place ***additional*** safe storage measures outlined on the Registry.

Family members and friends

Do not be tempted to let your family or friend hold your firearm – not even for a quick photo.

Do not share photos of you and your firearm.

Do not share photos or information about your firearms on social media.

Do not give family or friends access to the firearm storage keys.

Deceased Estate

As you age, make provisions for your firearms. Ensure that your family and/or executor knows your wishes regarding your firearms. An executor has six months in which to organise the disposal, sale or gifting of a firearm.

Additional reading

All of the above are detailed on the [NSW Police Force Firearms Registry](#) on the NSW Police website. We also recommend you familiarise yourself with the [Firearms Act 1996](#) and the associated [Regulation](#) available on the NSW Legislation website: legislation.nsw.gov.au.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch NSW - Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.

Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.