



Why is Safe Storage important?

Young children are at risk of injury or death by ingesting medication or accessing an unsecured firearm.

Additionally, it is difficult to know who is struggling with mental health concerns and reducing access to lethal means can save lives!



Northern New England Poison Center

Phone

1 (800) 222-1222

Text

POISON to 85511



Safe Kids Vermont

E-mail

VTSafeKids@uvmhealth.org

Learn more online

SafeKids.org



University of Vermont Children's Hospital

Learn more online

Childrens.uvmhealth.org



Safe Storage



Medication and Firearms



1 in 3



1 in 3 parents think if their child is being watched, it doesn't matter where medication is stored. After accidental medical ingestion, parents say they only turned their backs for a minute.



In the U.S., **1 in 3** homes with children have guns and most of these children know where the firearms are located.

MEDICATIONS

From prescription to over-the-counter, store all medications safely.

BEST STORAGE PRACTICES

- Keep all medications out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Lock medications away in a medicine cabinet or lock box.
- Close and put medication away after every use.
- Place visitors purses, bags, or coats out of reach of children, in case they have medications in them.



WHEN IN USE

- Read the label every time to make sure you are giving the right medication and the correct dose.
- Use the dosing device that comes with the medicine, and not a kitchen spoon.
- Keep track of doses and make sure all caregivers in the home are aware of when medication is given to a child.

FIREARMS

Many families own a firearm or air guns. To prevent injury and death, children and teens should not be able to access them.

BEST STORAGE PRACTICES

- Keep firearms out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Firearms should be stored unloaded and locked with ammunition locked and stored separately.
- Keep the combination or location of the key for the lock, lock box, or safe a secret!
- If a visitor has a firearm, provide them with a place to store it securely while in your home.

GUN LOCK OR LOCK BOX OR SAFE

The best choice depends on your type of firearm, budget, and lifestyle.

- Gun locks, including cable and trigger locks, may be available for free from law enforcement or purchased inexpensively.
- Lock boxes can store handguns and can be secured with a key, combination lock, or finger print scan.
- Gun safes can store multiple firearms of various sizes and come in a variety of lock styles.

