Four reasons why you should lock your firearms:

**Prevent children from being injured or killed.**
Each year about 33 Washington children are hospitalized and 19 children die from firearm injuries.

**Prevent crimes from being committed with your gun.**
Thousands of handguns are stolen each year in the U.S. Many are used to commit other crimes. In 2010, $2.6 million worth of firearms were reported stolen in Washington.

**Prevent depressed teens from committing suicide.**
A recent study of adolescent suicides found that over half were carried out with a gun from the adolescent’s home.

**Keep schools gun-free.**
In 2010, 14% of eighth graders and 18% of tenth graders surveyed said it was easy to get a handgun.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction reported 130 incidents involving a firearm on school premises, transportation systems, or school facilities.

Alternate formats available
Firearm locking and storage devices can be purchased wherever guns or firearm accessories are sold:

- gun stores
- sporting goods stores
- firing ranges
- locksmiths
- discount stores

A simple online search using “firearm safe storage” or “firearm lock” as keywords can help you locate additional purchasing information and find a large selection of online retailers.

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**Gun Vault or Safe**

**What it is:** A safe in a variety of sizes designed to store long guns, handguns, and other valuables.

**How it works:** Your firearms are locked inside the vault. A push-button, combination or digital key pad opens the lock.

**Features:** Varies by type and model

**Price:** $100 to $2,000+

**Advantages:**
- Difficult to steal
- Allows storage of numerous long guns and handguns
- Allows storage of other personal items
- Usually fire resistant
- Keeps valuables out of sight

**Disadvantages:**
- Costs more than chamber locks or lock boxes
- Heavy and difficult to move

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**Cable Lock**

**What it is:** A device that blocks the chamber to prevent a cartridge from being fired.

**How it works:** Cable locks are inserted in or through the magazine well or chamber, or are inserted through the gun barrel and chamber to block a cartridge from moving into position. A combination or key opens the lock.

**Features:** Metal cylinders, vinyl covered wire cables, or other designs. Locks may be “universal” or may only fit certain revolver or pistol models. Some models have anti-tamper alarms.

**Price:** Free to $20+

**Advantages:**
- Long cables may be threaded through several guns
- Inexpensive

**Disadvantages:**
- Thin cables could be cut

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**Lock Box**

**What it is:** A small safe designed to store a handgun.

**How it works:** Your handgun is locked inside the box. A push-button, combination, digital keypad, or key opens the lock.

**Features:** Most models have holes in the bottom to allow permanent mounting. Some have lighted locks for access in the dark. Most have padded interiors.

**Price:** $40 to $200+

**Advantages:**
- Quick access if the lock is push-button or digital
- Difficult to steal if permanently mounted
- May allow storage for more than one handgun
- Keeps gun out of sight

**Disadvantages:**
- Costs more than trigger locks or chamber locks

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**Firearm Locking Devices**

There are dozens of devices to lock your firearm.

Many experts recommend using lock boxes, safes, or gun vaults with a push button, combination, or digital keypad lock.

No matter which security device you choose, ensure that it meets the California Department of Justice safety standards.