



Texas Republic Firearms Academy

High Impact Self-Reliance™

Important Firearm Accessories

Child-Resistant Lock / Gun Transport (\$5-12):

If one didn't come with your gun, you'll want to get a child-safety lock for each gun that you own unless you use a locked steel gun vault. It's important to follow the instructions which come with the gun-lock as proper installation on revolvers and pistols may not be the same. If adequately strong, yet another option is to use the plastic box that your gun came in, but add two quality padlocks to accommodate this safety purpose. This plastic box is also a good option for transport to and from the gun range, and these boxes (with padlocks added) are often adequate for airline use, too. (Be sure to check with your airline as individual airlines and FAA rules are subject to frequent change).

Handgun Safe / Secure Storage (\$100 and up):

A child-safety lock is not adequate for gun storage. Rarely do criminals buy guns from a store; rather they get them from burglars who steal them from good people like you. It's therefore up to us to make it difficult for burglars to steal guns. One-gun or two-gun safes are a good option. They aren't burglar proof, but properly installed they impede theft. (If mounting holes aren't provided, drill holes into the box and then bolt the unit to wall studs behind a bedside table or in a closet. Or, bolt inside your car's trunk [using care to avoid drilling into the car's gas tank], or solidly mount your gun safe in some other secure, semi-hidden location.)



Handgun safes (security boxes) should have these features:

- a) All-steel construction with a tamper-proof piano hinge;
- b) Raised button combo-lock buttons that are tactile, so it can be opened by touch in the dark;
- c) Spring-opened access door (automatically pops-open when unlocked);
- d) Foam padding in the interior to protect your handgun;
- e) Ace key-lock, making it possible to open the safe even if the batteries have failed.

Example: <http://www.cheaperthandirt.com/GNS702-1.html>



Gun Cleaning Kit (\$25-75*):

There are hundreds of gun cleaning kits on the market, but this little kit (OTIS FG-610) has almost everything you need in a small package (\$40). Since the price is nearly the same as a single-caliber kit, you might as well get one that works for all pistols (.22 thru .45 calibers). Unless you plan to use your kit to also clean a rifle or shotgun, buy a kit that is made exclusively for handguns as the smaller pieces make cleaning tasks easier. OTIS is a particularly popular brand of cleaning kit due to high quality and small size. Other common brands are: Hoppe's, Birchwood Casey, and Shooters

Choice. Illustrated kit: http://www.brownells.com/.aspx/pid=27576/Product/610_CLEANING_SYSTEM

In regard to cleaning your gun, only use cleaning rods, brushes, and other tools which are made from soft metal (such as aluminum, copper or brass) or something synthetic (such as nylon). Use of steel, stainless steel, or hard-metal cleaning tools will damage your gun.

*Use the manufacturer’s manual to disassemble the gun and clean according to their recommendation. Metal-to-metal moving parts should be either lubricated with gun oil or coated with a thin layer of gun grease. The frames of polymer pistols should be wiped clean using a soft cloth, but not treated with oil.

Bore patches are small squares of soft cotton cloth, pre-cut to a size appropriate for the caliber. This is the one consumable you’ll go through in larger quantities. During cleaning, you should change to a fresh patch as soon as a patch looks dirty. When you begin cleaning the barrel of your gun after shooting it, initially use a fresh patch for each pass through the barrel, because dirty patches grind residue into the barrel and will eventually damage the rifling of the bore. Though you should change your cleaning patch frequently, you only need to use a few drops of lubricant on the patch. Use enough lubricant to thoroughly dampen the metal of the gun, but not so much that the oily liquid runs or drips.

To clean the inside of the barrel, put a few drops of lubricant or bore cleaner on a patch and pull it through the barrel. If the inside of the barrel still looks dirty, then use bore-cleaner and a brass or soft bore-brush attached to your cleaning rod. Run the brush through the barrel until it exits completely. Never switch directions of a brush when it is inside the barrel. Always push it completely through the barrel before reversing direction. After a couple passes of the brush, run a clean cloth-patch through the barrel to remove the residue; and then repeat the process again using the brush, as necessary. Be sure to use patches which are soft, but don’t leave “lint” in/on your gun. It’s not always practical, but ideally it’s best to run the brush and cleaning patch through the barrel in the same direction that the bullet travels. This is especially important if you can’t remove the barrel, because this technique helps keep grime and dirty oil from falling into the guns internal parts.

Gun Lubrication and Rust Protection (\$8-25):

Often times lubricants also contain chemicals to help protect metal parts from rust, but not necessarily, so it is important to read the label. And as you would expect, some products work better than others, so don’t use an off-brand product on your expensive firearms. Also, perspiration often causes hidden rust to develop, so keep your firearm protected, especially when carried concealed in warm weather.

Gun grease isn’t necessary for revolvers, but it is helpful for semi-automatic pistols. Lubricants and greases are used sparingly, so you probably don’t need a big bottle/tube. Avoid using aerosol oils directly on your gun. However, if you’re going to store your gun for an extended period, or if you’re taking it on a boat or around saltwater air, use metal-protecting oil more liberally. This said, if you’ve doused your gun in protecting oil, it needs to be swabbed before it is used. Excessive lubrication will blow-out when a gun is fired, and this reduces accuracy and can also create safety problems. Further, penetrating oils can seep into the primers of cartridges and cause misfires, so don’t over lubricate. Common product brands are: Hoppe’s, Birchwood Casey, and Shooters Choice. In addition to a good lubricant, you’ll also want to get a bore-cleaning solvent to remove lead deposits and stubborn fouling from your gun’s barrel. If you want the benefit of a higher quality gun lubricant, you will probably need to visit a large gun store or order online.

High-Quality Gun Lubricants: At some point you’ll want a small bottle of high-quality lubricant AND a compatible gun grease. My *current* favorite is

“Militec-1,” but unfortunately it’s usually not found in sporting goods stores, so I buy it online. A product such as this isn’t essential, but if you are serious about using high-quality products to keep your handgun in top operating condition, then a product like Militec-1 is what you want. (If you’re already planning to place an online order for a gun cleaning kit or something else, use the opportunity to purchase a bottle of Militec-1). http://www.brownells.com/.aspx/pid=19643/Product/MILITEC_1



Note: Never use WD-40 or similar on your gun as it attracts dust, which in turn invites rust. Also, if you use too much of any lubricant, it will seep into unseen areas of the gun and this may build-up and cause problems. Take the time to read, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for all gun-care products.

Water Exposure: If your gun is ever dropped in water or thoroughly drenched by rain, dry it the best you can, and then submerge the metal parts in Water Displacing Oil overnight. (This can be purchased at a mechanic's supply store). Then, blow the parts dry, and coat with Boeshield T-9 metal preservative (#686-9000-004). Let it sit 1-hr, and then wipe off. Next, treat the parts with gun lubricant and reassemble the gun. When in doubt, take it to a gunsmith. For extended storage or serious moisture protection, treat metal parts with "RIG Rust Preventative" (Brownells #756-010-001). If you are anticipating wet weather, salt air, or heavy sweat, treat the gun with Boeshield T-9 in advance.



Hearing Protection (\$30-\$175*):

Foam ear-plugs might be okay for infrequent use, but for regular shooting you need "muff"-style hearing protection. The "muff" protects the area *behind* the ear, which is also susceptible to hearing damage.

When shopping for foam earplugs, earmuffs, or any other hearing protection, select the highest possible NRR (Noise Reduction Rating). Unfortunately, it's hard to find hearing protection with a NRR of greater than 27, but don't settle for anything less. If you're particularly concerned about hearing protection, wear foam earplugs under your earmuffs to increase the effective NRR.

Other than NRR, the other options to consider when selecting noise-reduction earmuffs are:

- a) A headband which runs over the top of your head which tends to be more comfortable, or a behind-the-head strap which makes it easier to wear muffs with a hat (worn to protect you from shells/sun).
- b) Standard vs. electronic earmuffs. The electronic muffs have microphone(s) and earphones built into the muffs. This makes it easier for you to hear range commands and other things that are happening around you. With electronic muffs, you can hear normally, or the volume can "turned-up" to hear even more. (With electronic earmuffs, the microphone input is automatically cut-off by the noise of a gunshot). It's no surprise that electronic earmuffs are quite a bit more expensive, but what is often not considered is the NRR of the electronic muffs. They still need to be rated at 27 NRR or higher.

Eye Protection (\$12-100*):

The inexpensive route is to buy a pair of safety glasses at a home-improvement store such as Lowes or Home Depot. Or, you can purchase actual shooting glasses. The cheap versions can be okay, but scratch easily. Military surplus (but new) can be had from several sources and are usually quite good, but make sure that they are actually mil-spec glasses, not just a knock-offs. For shooting outdoors, it's an advantage to have polarized lenses, and glasses which have interchangeable sunglass and clear (or yellow) lenses.



Ammo Storage Container (\$10-12):

To protect firefighters, store your ammunition in a steel box. The cheapest solution is a .50-cal ammo can (box) that can be purchased at a gun show or army surplus store. If you want to store ammo for an extended time period, paint the can inside and out with rust-protection paint, add a bag of desiccant (calcium oxide or silica gel) to the can, and moisten the can's rubber seal with Vaseline before closing.

Online Vendors: www.Brownells.com; www.SportsmansGuide.com; www.CheaperThanDirt.com.
For more information relating to gun ownership and firearm self-defense, visit: www.TXRFA.com.