

» FIREARM STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

A person entitled to possess firearms or ammunition of any kind is to ensure that the firearms or ammunition are stored in accordance with Schedule 4 of the *Firearms Regulation 1974*.

This pamphlet outlines the requirements that **MUST** be adhered to under Schedule 4 of the *Firearms Regulation 1974* for the safe storage of firearms and ammunition.

Advice is also provided on how to reduce the likelihood of your firearms being stolen.

You may wish to consult a Firearms Dealer for advice on commercially available firearms safes that meet the below requirements. But remember that they must also be *installed* in accordance with the 'Anchoring' requirements contained in Schedule 4.

» FIREARM THEFT PREVENTION

Most firearms are stolen opportunistically during a home burglary. To reduce your risk please consider the following preventative measures:

- Conceal your cabinet so it is not noticeable if your home is burgled;
- Install an alarm system at your home to reduce your risk of burglary, particularly if you have multiple firearms;
- Install windows locks and door locks – and use them - even when you are home;
- Cabinet keys should not be left anywhere someone may find them. Many firearm thefts occur because the cabinet keys were left in a bedside drawer or other place in the house, whilst the owner was out. (It's best to keep firearm storage keys on your person). **It is an offence to have the keys readily accessible where the cabinet is located as this is deemed to have been left unlocked if this is found to be the case;**
- If your cabinet is located within a shed or workshop, ensure that any tools that may be used to cut open a safe are not accessible eg an Angle Grinder;
- Most importantly, if you are going to be away for any period of time then consider having your firearms safely stored with a Dealer or at a Police Station. Many thefts occur when the owners are away on holidays or business and the premises is left unattended;
- **NEVER leave a firearm unattended in a car. It is an offence to do so.**
- Be aware of unknown persons trying to find out if you are a firearms licence holder; and
- Ensure your details are not released that identify you as a firearms licence holder.

CONTACT POLICE LICENSING SERVICES

Website: www.police.wa.gov.au

Email: licensingervicesfirearms@police.wa.gov.au

Postal Address: Locked Bag 9, East Perth WA 6892

Telephone: 1300 171 011

Fax: (08) 9454 1522



WA POLICE



WA POLICE

POLICE LICENSING SERVICES FIREARMS



» FIREARM STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

FIREARMS CALL CENTRE

TEL: 1300 171 011

Office Hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm

SAFE STORAGE OF YOUR FIREARMS REQUIRED BY SCHEDULE 4 FIREARMS STATES:

1. Construction

- The cabinet is to be constructed of mild steel that is 2 mm thick.
- A joint between 2 faces that is butt welded is to have a continuous weld along the full length of the joint.
- A joint where the edge of one face is folded over the edge of another face is to be stitch welded, with welds of at least 20 mm in length at intervals of not more than 100 mm between welds.
- Spot welding is not to be used on the joints between faces.
- The cabinet is to be so designed that no firearm or ammunition within it can be removed from it while it is locked.
- In this clause - 'face' means a side, the top, or the bottom, of the cabinet.

2. Doors

- Doors are to be recessed into the surrounding frame with margins of not more than 4 mm.
- Each edge of the door and door frame is to be internally supported and have a return of at least 10 mm.
- The cabinet is to have an internal stop of at least 10 mm against which each edge of the door, other than the hinged edge, closes.
- The supports and stops required by subclauses (2) and (3) are to be welded at the corners.

3. Hinging mechanisms

- Hinge protection is to be provided in such a way that, if the hinges are removed, the door of the cabinet or container remains in place and locked.
- If the hinged edge of the door is not longer than 1 metre, 2 hinges are required on it, and if it is longer than 1 metre, an additional hinge is required for each additional 500 mm or part thereof.
- If 2 hinges are required, the distance between them is to be not less than one-third of the length of the hinged edge.
- If more than 2 hinges are required the distance between adjacent hinges is to be the same and that is also to be the distance from each of the outermost hinges to the nearest end of the hinged edge.
- If a spindle is used instead of hinges, it is to extend the full length of the hinged edge of the door and is to be attached to the door by welds the number and placement of which comply with the requirements of subclauses (2), (3), and (4) for the number and placement of hinges.
- If, instead of using hinges, the door swings on a spindle or on pivots not extending the full length of the hinged edge of the door, the cabinet is to incorporate a return protecting the hinged edge, along its full length, against the use of a jemmy.

4. Locks and locking points

- If the swinging edge of the door is not longer than 500 mm, one lock is required with a locking point half way along that edge.
- If the swinging edge is longer than 500 mm but not longer than 1.5 metres —
 - a) 2 locks are required each with a separate locking point along the swinging edge; and
 - b) The distance between the 2 locking points is to be not less than one-third of the length of the swinging edge.
- If the swinging edge is longer than 1.5 metres —
 - a) for each additional 500 mm or part thereof there is to be an additional lock with a separate locking point along the swinging edge; and
 - b) the distance between adjacent locking points is to be the same and that is also to be the distance from each of the outermost locking points to the nearest end of the swinging edge.
- It is sufficient compliance with subclause (2) if, when the swinging edge is longer than 500 mm but not longer than 1.5 metres, there is one lock with at least 3 separate locking points.
- Each lock is to have a 5 pin mechanism that deadlocks the bolt in the locked position until it is properly unlocked.
- If the locking bolt is designed to be released by a handle or lever, the design is to be such that, if the handle or lever is forcibly removed while the door is locked, the bolt remains in the locked position.
- The cabinet is to be fitted with a protective structure to guard against the forcible removal of any lock.
- In this clause — **"locking point"** means the point at which the bolt locks the door to the cabinet or container, preventing the door from opening; **"swinging edge"** means the edge of the door opposite the hinged edge.

5. Anchoring (Installing your firearms safe)

- The cabinet is to be securely anchored from the inside at 2 points on each of 2 separate surfaces to 2 immovable structural surfaces by means of 8 mm x 75 mm masonry fixing bolts or coach screws, as is appropriate.
- At each anchor point the cabinet is to be reinforced with a 40 mm x 40 mm x 2 mm metal plate, or a 40 mm x 2 mm metal washer, fitted between the surface of the cabinet or container and the head of the bolt or coach screw.

PROPELLANTS INCLUDING BLACK POWDER

BOTH of the following legislative provisions apply when storing propellants/ black powder.

- (The provisions of) Regulation 11A (9) & (10) and Schedule 4 of the Firearms Regulations 1974 (and a licence is required);
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007: Part 9 - Storage of Explosives, Schedule 4 (regardless of whether a licence is required).

Method of Storage

- In practice this means placing the propellant or black powder (excluding any ammunition propellant contained within ammunition) in a non-ferrous container (eg: a wooden box or other non-ferrous container).
Note: No more than 2kg of black powder may be stored in any one container.
- It should be noted that whilst it is not a legislative requirement to do so, it is recommended by the Department of Mines & Petroleum (Dangerous Goods & Safety Branch) that the cabinet or container used to store the propellants and black powder is vented in order to prevent gas build up in the case of a fire or other external heat source.
- The amount of ammunition propellant that may be stored at a place must not exceed 15 Kg, and further, there is not more than 4Kg of black powder stored at the same place.
- These Propellants must not be stored, (whether or not it is in another container), in a cabinet that contains any ammunition, firearm or primer.

COMPLIANCE CHECKS BY POLICE

WA Police are proactively checking the safe storage of firearms licence holders to ensure correct compliance with the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Firearms Act. If you fail to store your firearms in accordance with the Act then you are likely to have your firearms seized, a prosecution commenced against you and your licence may be revoked.