

Home & Firearms Security

FACT SHEET



Firearms Security

Standard condition 4(a) of the Firearms & Shotgun Certificate states:-

'The guns (and ammunition relating to Firearms Certificates) to which the certificate relates must at all times be stored securely so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, access to the guns by an unauthorised person'.

Firearms should be secured within the occupied structure of the dwelling.

Cabinets should provide the resistance certified to comply with BS7558:1992 as detailed below:-

- Not less than **2mm sheet** steel body.
- Continuous rest plate on the opening edge of the door to prevent attack on lock(s).
- Hinges should be internally fitted.
- Full length doors should be fitted with two BS 3621 locking devices dividing the locking edge into equal parts.
- Secured to the structure of the dwelling by at least 4 x 10mm fixing devices (*M10 Rawl Bolts*). Must be flush to a solid wall and floor eliminating all gaps (*it may be necessary to remove skirting*).

Confidentiality

- The cabinet should not be visible.
- The cabinet should not be obvious to overlooking neighbours, window cleaners or other workers who may have a legitimate view into your home.
- Do not advertise the presence of firearms in your home (*even to close friends*).
- On return from a shoot put the gun(s) away in the cabinet then have your refreshment.

If you require further advice contact your local Firearms & Explosives Unit on 0161 8560820

Transportation & Storage

VEHICLES

When travelling in a vehicle, keep your guns & ammunition out of sight, preferably in the locked luggage compartment.

It is preferable to keep your guns in their covers or cases. If you have to park your vehicle for any reason, park it where you can see it – if at all possible.

The vehicle must be locked and any anti-theft devices set. It is a good idea to park in a manner that prevents easy access to the part of the vehicle containing your guns, such as backing the vehicle very close to the wall to make it difficult for a thief to get at the boot.

SECURITY & STORAGE

Always keep your shotgun secured – in the gun cabinet – when not in use.

Ensure no one else has access to the key.

Remember it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that unauthorised persons (*which includes anyone who hasn't got a shotgun certificate*) do not have access to your guns.

STORING AMMUNITION

Store your shotgun ammunition separately from your gun(s). The law does not require you to keep your shotgun cartridges secure; however, it is good practice to do so. They are best stored in a cool dry place (*not in a loft due to fire risk*).

BURGLARY PREVENTION

MAKE THE HOUSE LOOK OCCUPIED

Burglars are cowards and don't want to be disturbed. They pick easy targets where they think everyone is out, or asleep upstairs.

You can convince them that someone is at home by having plug –in timer control for lamps. Set the lighting timers to come on when it goes dark, especially if you tend to be late home in winter.

Don't just have the hall light on when you are not in; have the lights switching themselves on in the bedroom, bathroom (*not many people get out of the bath to answer the door*), kitchen and lounge.

GET ALARMED!

If an alarm is activated, the sound will cause most burglars to grab what they can quickly before making their escape, without exploring the rest of the house. Make sure you always set it before leaving the house and before going to bed.

GOOD FENCES & GATES

Most burglars break into a house from the back. Good rear garden fences or hedges, coupled with a side gate will help protect your home.

LIGHT UP BURGLARS WITH OUTSIDE LIGHTS

Outside lighting not only reduces the actuality of crime, it may help to reduce the fear of crime when you are welcomed with a bright light.

PHYSICAL SECURITY

Most Insurance companies now insist on a specific level of physical security. Check your policy and if in doubt, write to your broker before it is too late.