

SAFE STORAGE

FOR LETHAL MEANS
AND
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



FIREARMS

- Firearms are the most common method of suicide in the Marine Corps.
- Use cable locks to prevent a firearm from being loaded and fired. Cable locks may be available at your installation. Check with your command Suicide Prevention Program Officer (SPPO).
- Store firearms with local police department, gun shop, or shooting range. Some local and state laws require weapon registration for legal storage; always follow the law in your jurisdiction.
- Lock up firearms and put the key in a lock box and give the key to a friend until the crisis has passed.
- Ask a family member, friend, or neighbors to safely store firearms as necessary.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

- Do not keep lethal doses of medications on-hand. Discuss both prescription and non-prescription medications with your doctor or pharmacist. Your pharmacist can advise you on safe quantities.
- Consider locking up all medications. Medication lock boxes are available online and in many pharmacies.
- Dispose of medications that are no longer needed or are outdated. Go to any military or non-military pharmacy or local law enforcement to safely dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications at any local drug take-back program drop box.
- Keep only small quantities of alcohol in the home. Drinking alcohol while taking medications can be lethal and can lead to impulsive choices such as a suicide attempt.



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Potentially dangerous household items should be put in a locked cabinet or space away from children or those that may wish to harm themselves.
- While we may not think of household items as “lethal means”, many items can be dangerous. Some of these household items include:
 - Bleach
 - Detergent
 - Mothballs
 - Spray Paint
 - Aerosol Cans
 - Pesticides
 - Gasoline
 - Adhesives

