

# Packing Firearms and Ammunition

The Transportation Security Administration detects firearms and other weapons at security checkpoints daily. Before leaving home, travelers are encouraged to check their baggage to ensure they are not traveling with any prohibited items including firearms, firearm parts and ammunition to avoid a possible arrest or civil penalties.

## Firearms

- Firearms must be unloaded and locked in a hard-sided container and transported as checked baggage only. Firearm parts, including firearm frames and receivers, are prohibited in all carry-on baggage and must also be placed in checked baggage.
- All firearms, ammunition and parts in checked baggage must be declared at the airline ticket counter during the check-in process.
- Replica firearms may be transported in checked baggage only.
- Travelers are encouraged to check regulations related to carrying firearms where they are traveling from and to, as laws may vary by destination.
- Rifle scopes are permitted in carry-on and checked bags.



## Ammunition

- Ammunition is prohibited in carry-on baggage, but may be transported in checked baggage.
- Firearm magazines and ammunition clips, whether loaded or empty, must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unloaded firearm.
- Small arms ammunition, including ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber for a rifle or pistol and shotgun shells of any gauge, may be carried in the same hard-sided case as the firearm, as described in the packing guidelines above.

If a locked container carrying a firearm alarms, TSA or the airline will make a reasonable attempt to contact the owner. If contact is not made, the container will not be placed on the aircraft. For specific types of firearms and ammunition allowed in checked baggage visit [tsa.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

## Law Enforcement Officers

There are certain limited exceptions for law enforcement officers who may fly armed by meeting the requirements of Title 49 CFR § 1544.219. Law enforcement officers traveling with firearms can visit the law enforcement officer travel section of [tsa.gov](https://www.tsa.gov) for a list of policies.

## Penalties

The normal penalty range for a single firearms violation is provided below:

- \$3,000 - \$10,000 plus criminal referral for loaded firearms
- \$1,500 - \$2,475 plus criminal referral for unloaded firearms
- \$2,090 - \$4,170 plus criminal referral for silencers, mufflers, frames, and/or receivers
- \$690 - \$1,390 for undeclared or improperly packaged firearms in checked baggage
- Violators will be disqualified from participation or enrollment in TSA PreCheck® for a minimum of three years for the first offense. It can also result in civil fines and possible criminal charges.

