

# Traveling With Your Firearm Is Easy When You Prepare, Pack, Declare

Attempting to bring a firearm through a TSA passenger screening checkpoint is a violation of TSA security regulations. Discovery of a firearm results in significant disruptions to the screening checkpoint and puts the traveling public, law enforcement, TSA employees and other airport and airline personnel at risk.

## Prepare

Know what you can and cannot bring to the airport before you begin to pack. Please review the list of prohibited items posted on [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov) to ensure you have a seamless experience at the security checkpoint.

Remember, firearms are never allowed to travel through the passenger screening checkpoint. Firearms may only be transported in checked baggage.

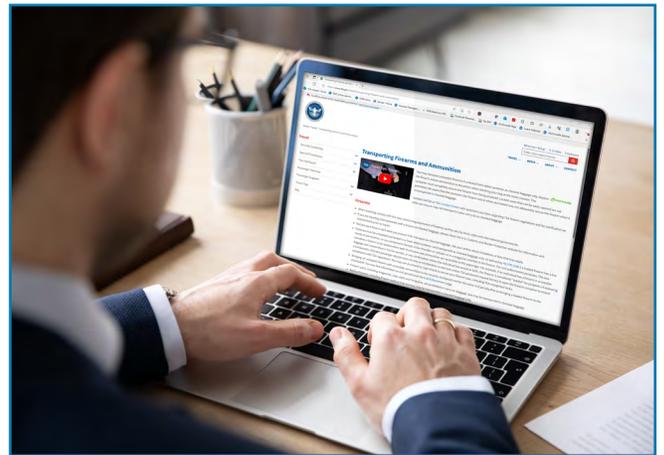
## Pack

If planning to travel with a firearm, ensure the firearm is completely unloaded and packed in a locked, hard-sided case before coming to the airport. Only the passenger may retain the key or lock combination.

Properly packaged small arms ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber for a rifle or pistol, magazines, and shotgun shells of any gauge may be carried inside of a magazine or container in the same hard-sided case as the firearm, but never stored in the firearm itself. For more information on packaging and traveling with ammunition please see the firearms guidance on [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

Locked cases that can easily be opened do not meet the requirements for transporting in checked baggage and are not permitted. Passengers may use any brand or type of lock to secure the case, including TSA-recognized locks.

Under TSA screening procedures, if requested, passengers are required to provide keys or a combination to TSA personnel conducting security screening of checked



baggage. This requirement is consistent with TSA's statutory responsibility for screening of passengers and property. 49 USC 44901.

### Declare

Firearms and ammunition are prohibited at TSA passenger screening checkpoints. If you are traveling with a firearm, you must take it directly to the airline ticket counter and declare it to the counter agent. If the firearm is in a hard-sided case that is contained within another piece of checked luggage, the airline must place the declaration form on top of or within immediate proximity of the case. If the firearm is not contained within another piece of checked luggage, the declaration tag should be placed inside the case, with the firearm.



Airlines may have additional requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition. TSA recommends travelers contact their airline for carriage policies prior to arriving at the airport.

After a firearm is checked at the ticket counter, ask the airline if they have any additional requirements such as waiting in the lobby for a set period of time before proceeding through the TSA security checkpoints to avoid having to leave the secure area to make a correction in the event that the firearm is improperly packed.

### TSA's Commitment

TSA is committed to protecting the traveling public, but travelers are also responsible for properly handling, packing, and declaring their firearm. When a passenger is discovered with a firearm at a TSA passenger screening checkpoint, transportation security officers will stop screening and contact local law enforcement. Local law enforcement will take control of the property, verify and secure the firearm, and process the passenger in accordance with local laws. In addition to law enforcement action, TSA fines passengers who bring a firearm to a TSA checkpoint with a civil penalty up to about \$15,000, removes the passenger's TSA PreCheck® eligibility for at least five years, and may refer the matter for federal prosecution.

States and localities, airlines, and foreign countries have their own regulations and laws concerning the possession of firearms. Prior to departure, passengers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with, and abiding by, applicable firearms laws, regulations, and policies from the airline, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and all local authorities at the arrival and departure locations. Understanding firearms policies, and planning accordingly, will ensure an uninterrupted, safe, and secure travel experience.

### Learn More



For more information, please visit [tsa.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).



If you are traveling internationally, please check the U.S. Customs and Border Protection site at [cbp.gov](https://www.cbp.gov).