

Security

Guns in transit and on shoot days

The law is vague on what constitutes ‘stored securely’ and ‘reasonably practical’ when guns are being carried away from home. It is generally acceptable for guns to be left out of sight in a locked car for short periods (e.g. during lunch) but the car itself should be somewhere that you can see it.

Whilst a higher level of security might be appropriate if guns are regularly left unattended in a vehicle for long periods this would not apply to most sporting users. Never leave your guns unattended in an unlocked car, even for a few minutes – thieves can strike at the most inopportune moment. For overnight stops with friends or in hotels the gun should be locked in the most secure place available. Guns being carried in public should be in a slip or case. When a gun is left anywhere other than in its normal storage a key component such as the forend or bolt should be removed and kept on your person. Expect no sympathy if your gun is stolen intact. Pub car parks are popular venues for thieves and extra care should be taken if you are lunching in a pub.

Overnight storage in a hotel

Some hotels have a secure gun storage but check that the person with control of the storage is a shotgun certificate holder (if you are lodging a shotgun) or RFD (for rifles and/or shotguns), otherwise it would be unlawful to give the gun to them. Ensure you get a receipt. In some cases it may be best if the owner can keep the gun with him at all times or keep different parts of the gun in different places.

Please give us your feedback!

The GWCT believes that the information this book contains should be spread as widely as possible through the shooting community, and would encourage others to borrow from it and share this knowledge, provided of course acknowledgement is made. Equally, as part of this project we are keen to have reader feedback and suggestions for improvements. Please contact us at info@gwct.org.uk