



Sporting Shooters Pistol Club (Vic)

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Securing Firearms

BEFORE YOU BUY A SAFE! Before the club will endorse the purchase of your first (and any subsequent) handgun, you must provide a completed form 3 to declare your safe keeping facilities meet Schedule 4 of the Firearms act.

TIPS ON BUYING & MOUNTING A SAFE: These tips will help you meet Schedule 4 of the Firearms Act which sets out the minimum requirements in order to get your Form 3 signed off. We have also included recommendations of 'Best Practice' standards. We have done this to give you direction of how you can best secure your firearms and as such, secure your sport.

WHERE SHOULD YOU INSTALL YOUR SAFE? Victoria Police will not approve a safe mounted in a garage or shed that is not part of the house. Plan to mount it inside the house. One of the reasons Victoria Police don't approve garages or Sheds is the likely availability of power tools, crowbars, etc. in such locations.

Best Practice: The preferred location for a safe is in the floor of a built-in cupboard so that it is not visible from windows and not obvious to visitors. Don't leave things outside the safe that may give a clue to its contents (an empty Smith & Wesson box on top of the safe is likely to attract the interest of the casual housebreaker.

DO YOU NEED AN ALARM SYSTEM? When Victoria Police calculate the total number of firearms at the property, they include long-arms as well as handguns. If more than 15 firearms are stored on the premises then an intruder alarm must be fitted.

Best Practice: We strongly recommend you consider the installation of an alarm system for any number of firearms. Think like a housebreaker: what would you do to get into the safe or tear it off its hinges? Would you take the time required to remove or break into a safe, while the Alarm was going off?

GENERAL SAFE CHARACTERISTICS: The safe must be of steel construction which is of a thickness that is not easily penetrable and which when any firearm is stored in it, is locked.

Best Practice: A safe that is rated by the manufacturer as meeting Category H. However a safe that is constructed of structural grade 250 mild steel conforming to AS3679 and is of not less than 6mm in thickness is absolute best practice. Plan ahead, the rules always get tougher here at review of the act. Generally, external hinges are considered too easy to attack, but if they are backed up by an additional internal mechanism (e.g. hinge pins, sliding bolts, internal

door retention brackets), they are generally of a high standard. Don't buy a 'fireproof document safe': these are built to withstand fire but have relatively thin layers of steel and insulating material.

SAFE LOCKS: Victoria Police DFO's do not approve of cheap combination locks. In some instances, where a key is used in conjunction, they may be approved.

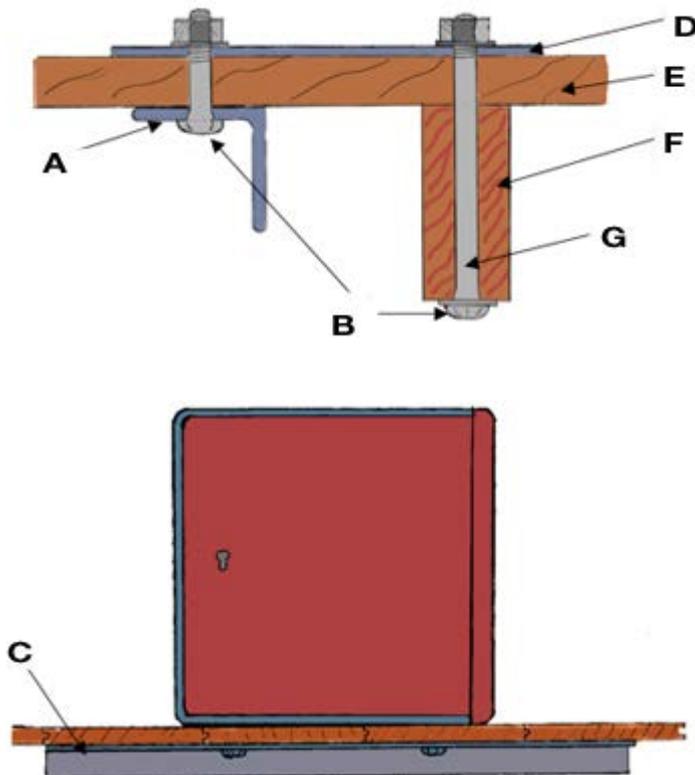
Best Practice: The preference is for the 'Ross' type lock with at least five levers, see illustration. Remember, if you are the only licensed person in the house then you must be the only person with access to the key!



INSTALLATION OF YOUR SAFE: Schedule 4 of the Firearms act states that if the safe weighs less than 150 kilograms when it is empty, then it must be bolted to the structure of the premises where the firearm is authorised to be kept

Best Practice-CONCRETE FLOOR INSTALLATION: Use four Dynabolts or Loxins with a minimum shaft diameter of 9.5mm are recommended. Insurance companies recommend a good layer of liquid nails to help stick the safe to the concrete floor.

Best Practice -TYPICAL WOODEN FLOOR INSTALLATION: Two strips of flat bar or angle iron running from floor joist to floor joist to prevent use of a jigsaw to remove floor and safe. These should be at least as thick as the safe walls. Bolts in four places with 9.5mm minimum bolts; 12mm is better. If you can bolt through a bearer as well, do so! Even a strap over the bearer gives added security. If you must leave the nuts under the floor, burr the threads so that they cannot be removed, or weld the nuts to the plate or Angle Iron as extra security.



WOODEN FLOOR INSTALLATION LEGEND

- A - If floor joist mounting is not possible, use heavy angle iron or steel plate
- B - Cup head coach bolts, heads under floor, nuts inside safe!
- C - Be generous with angle iron. Extend floor joist to floor joist
- D - Floor of safe
- E - Floor boards
- F - Floor joist
- G - Ideal mounting is through floor joist