Firearms in Checked Baggage

Amtrak accepts reservations of firearms and ammunition for carriage between Amtrak stations and on Amtrak trains within the United States that offer checked baggage service and a ticket office. Amtrak Connection bus services are not to be included in this service. The following policies are in effect:

- Notification that the passenger will be checking firearms/ammunition must be made at least 6 hours prior to travel by calling Amtrak at 800-USA-RAIL. Online reservations for firearms/ammunition are not accepted.
- The passengers must travel on the same train that is transporting the checked firearms and/or ammunition.
- All firearms and/or ammunition must be checked at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled train departure. Some larger stations require that baggage be checked earlier. Please contact your departure station for more details.
- All firearms (rifles, shotguns, handguns, taser guns, starter pistols) must be unloaded and in an approved, locked hard-sided container not exceeding 62" L x 17" W x 7" D (1575 mm x 432 mm x 178 mm). The passenger must have sole possession of the key or the combination for the lock to the container. The weight of the container may not exceed 50 lbs/23 kg.
- Smaller locked, hard-sided containers containing smaller unloaded firearms such as handguns, taser guns and starter pistols must be securely stored within a suitcase or other item of checked baggage, but the existence of such a firearm must be declared.
- All ammunition carried must be securely packed in the original manufacturer's container; in fiber, wood, or metal boxes; or in other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition. The maximum weight of all ammunition and containers may not exceed 11 lbs/5 kg.
- The passenger is responsible for knowing and following all federal, state, and local firearm laws at all jurisdictions to and through which he or she will be traveling.
- All other Amtrak checked baggage policies apply, including limits on the number of pieces of checked baggage, the maximum weight of each piece (50 lbs/23 kg).
- Firearms/ammunition may not be carried in carry-on baggage; therefore, checked baggage must be available on all trains and at all stations in the passenger's itinerary.
- At the time of check-in, passengers will be required to complete and sign a two-part Declaration Form.
- BB guns and Compressed Air Guns (to include paintball markers), are to be treated as firearms and must comply with the above firearms policy. Canisters, tanks, or other devices containing propellants must be emptied prior to checking and securely packaged within the contents of the passenger's luggage.

Passengers failing to meet the above-mentioned requirements for checking firearms will be denied transportation.

To inquire about or begin the firearms reservation process, use the Contact Us (/contact-us) page and select "Checked Firearms Program" as the subject and follow guidance.

Auto Train Firearms Policy

Amtrak accepts reservations for the transportation of firearms and ammunition on Auto Train. Firearms transported on Auto Train must remain secured in the customer's vehicle or motorcycle and may not be transported in Coach or sleeper accommodations. Open carry is prohibited onboard Auto Train. The following policies are in effect:

Firearm Reservation

- Customers must be 18 years of age or older to transport firearms on Auto Train.
- Customers traveling with firearms must make travel and firearm reservations at least six (6) hours in advance of the trip.
- Customers must travel on the same train that is transporting their firearms and/or ammunition.
- All firearms and ammunition must be declared in person no later than 2 hours and 30 minutes prior to scheduled train departure. Firearms without a corresponding reservation will not be accepted for transportation.
- Customers are responsible for knowing and following all applicable federal, state and local firearm laws throughout their journey.
- Amtrak employees will not request to inspect, handle or take possession of a customer’s firearm or ask the customer to demonstrate that the firearm is unloaded or properly packed. Customers may not handle firearms while on Amtrak property, in stations or onboard trains.
- At the time of check-in, customers will be required to complete a Firearms Declaration form. A separate declaration form is required for each firearm case and ammunition reservation.

Read more about Firearm Container Requirements

Container Requirements

- All firearms must be unloaded and secured in a locked, TSA-compliant hard-sided container with at least two locking points. Biometric-only or keypad-only firearm cases secured by only a single locking mechanism are not permitted.
- The customer must retain possession of the key or combination for the firearm container unless requested by law enforcement.
- Firearms must remain secured inside the customer’s vehicle while being transported on Auto Train. For motorcycles, the locked firearm container must either be securely attached and locked to the motorcycle or stored within a locked motorcycle compartment.
- Firearms and ammunition may not be carried in carry-on baggage or brought into Coach or sleeper accommodations.
- Firearm parts, including bolts and firing pins, along with rifle scopes, must remain in the customer’s vehicle with the firearm container. These items are not required to be stored inside the locked firearm container.
- Replica firearms, including toy replicas, must meet the same transportation requirements as actual firearms.
- Ammunition must be securely packed in the original manufacturer's packaging or in a fiber, wood, plastic, or metal container designed for ammunition transport. Properly packaged ammunition may be transported in the same locked case as the firearm.
- Magazines and clips, whether loaded or empty, must be securely boxed or enclosed within a locked hard-sided case.
- The maximum weight of ammunition transported may not exceed 11 lbs./5 kg per passenger.
- Canisters, tanks and other devices containing propellants must be emptied or disposed of before check-in.
- Unauthorized explosive or incendiary devices are prohibited. Black powder, percussion caps, matchlock/flintlock ammunition and gunpowder intended for hand-loaded ammunition are also prohibited.

Customers failing to meet the above-mentioned requirements for transporting firearms and/or ammunition may be denied transportation of the firearm and/or ammunition. Customers who are unable to meet the requirements must remove the firearm and/or ammunition from Amtrak property before traveling. If the firearm cannot be removed from Amtrak property, the customer may be denied transportation.