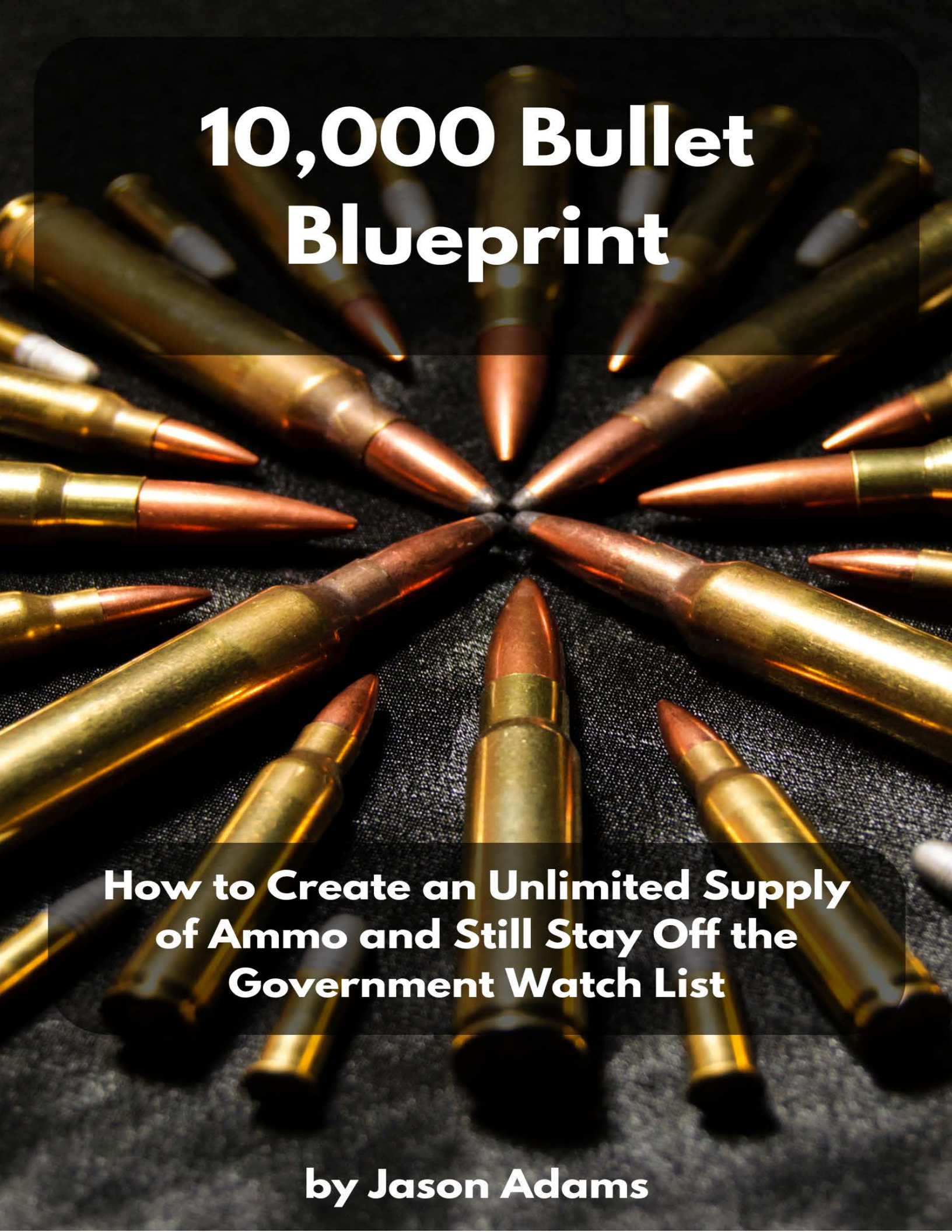


10,000 Bullet Blueprint

How to Create an Unlimited Supply of Ammo and Still Stay Off the Government Watch List

by Jason Adams

Table of Contents

Introduction 4

Chapter 1: The Benefits of Learning to Reload Ammo 6

Benefit #1 – Cost Effectiveness 6

Benefit #2 – More Control and Customization 7

Benefit #3 – Reloading Will Be an Essential Survival Skill 7

Benefit #4 – It Is Actually Fun 7

Remember to Teach Others in Your Group 8

Keep Practicing 8

You Are On Your Way 9

Chapter 2: Stocking Up on Ammo Is Not Enough – How Much Do You Need? 10

Why Ammunition? 10

How Much Ammo Do You Need? 11

Beyond the Minimum 13

Cleaning Equipment 14

How Many Magazines Do You Need? 14

What Should You Carry with You? 14

Stockpiling Is Never Enough 15

Chapter 3: Learn to Love Collecting Casings 16

Casing Collection 16

Quality Casings 17

Separate Stockpiles 17

It's Not as Hard as You Might Think 18

Chapter 4: Cases, Primers, Gunpowder, and Bullets 19

What Should You Stockpile? 19

Cases 20

Primers 21

Gunpowder 22

Bullets 23

Making Bullets from Scratch 24

The Trouble with Lead 25
Chapter 5: The Tools You Need for the Job 26
A Reloading Manual 26
Reloading Press Kit 26
Your Reloading Press 27
Die Sets 27
Gunpowder Scales 28
Eye Protection 28
Brass Case Trimmer 28
Worth the Cost 28
Don’t Cut Corners 29
Chapter 6: The Basics of Reloading 30
Are You Ready? 30
Remove the Primer and Resize the Cases 30
Priming the Cases 31
Charging the Cases 32
Seating 32
Crimping 33
The Inspection 33
Getting Better 33
Chapter 7: Shotgun Shell Reloading 35
The Hull 35
Plastic Wadding 36
Shot 36
Primers 36
Shot Shell Powder 36
Reloading the Shotgun Shells 36
Add the Powder and Wadding 37
The Right Type of Shot 37
Crimping the Shell 38

Keeping the Shells....38
Chapter 8: Improvisation – When You Have No Other Choice and the Dangers It Brings 39
Casings....39
Black Powder....39
What About Primers? 40
Too Dangerous....40
Chapter 9: Storing Your Ammunition 41
The Conditions 41
What Works to Help Keep the Ammo Ready to Fire? 42
Checking Your Ammo....43
Proper Labeling 43
Keeping Your Ammo Secure 44
A Tip for Conserving Ammunition....45
Chapter 10: Remember These Safety Tips for Reloading and More....47
Safety Tips for Basic Reloading 47
Safety Tips for Working with Smokeless Powder....48
Safety Tips for Primers....49
Safety Tips for Handling Lead 49
Safety Tips for Shotgun Shells 50
Safety First and Foremost 50
Conclusion 52
Resources 53

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY AND WARRANTY

This publication describes the author's opinions regarding the subject matter herein. The author and publisher are not rendering advice or services pertaining to specific individuals or situations. For specific advice, or if expert assistance is required, the services of a qualified professional should be obtained.

The author and publisher assume no responsibility whatsoever for the use of the information in this publication or for decisions made or actions taken based, in whole or in part, on the information in this publication. The author and publisher make no warranties, express or implied, regarding the information. Without limiting the foregoing, the author and publisher specifically disclaim and will not be responsible for any liability, loss, or risk incurred directly, indirectly or incidentally as a consequence of the use or misuse of any advice or information presented herein. Use this publication and information with good judgment and do the best you can in your particular situation.

You agree to indemnify and hold the author and publisher, and their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors and suppliers, harmless from any claim or demand, including reasonable attorneys' fees, related to your use or misuse of this publication or the information contained therein. You further agree that you will cooperate fully in the defense of any such claims.

Notice: As the purchaser of this electronic document you are permitted to store it and print it for your own personal use only. Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and publisher. It is illegal to make a copy of all or part of this publication for someone else, even if you do not charge for the copy. .

COPYRIGHT

Those who have received or purchased the guide are neither authorized nor permitted to transmit copies of this guide to anyone without written permission. Giving away copies to people who haven't paid for them is illegal under international copyright laws and will submit you to possible legal action. Therefore, the utilization of this file is limited to personal use only.

TERMS AND DISCLAIMER

By using, viewing, and interacting with this guide you agree to all terms of engagement, thus assuming complete responsibility for your own actions. The authors and publishers will not be held liable or claim accountability for any loss or injuries. Use, view, and interact with these resources at your own risk.

This book is strictly for informational purposes only. While all attempts have been made to verify the accuracy of information provided on our website and within the publications, neither the authors nor the publishers are responsible for assuming liability for possible inaccuracies.

The authors and publishers disclaim any responsibility for the inaccuracy of the content, including but not limited to errors or omissions. Loss of property, injury to self or others, and even death could occur as a direct or indirect consequence of the use and application of any content found herein.

Introduction

When you go to Wal-Mart, or your favorite hunting and sporting goods shop, what do you see on the ammo shelves? If it's like so many other stores out there across America, then you are probably seeing some dusty and empty shelves where all that ammo used to be. The stores are not able to get it as quickly as they once did, and they aren't able to keep it on the shelves when they do get it.

It's important that you gather and stockpile as much ammunition as you are able to whenever you have the chance. Of course, stockpiling is certainly not the only thing that you should be doing. You need to be ready for anything, and that means you need to start learning to reload your ammunition so you are never without it.

It is not as difficult as you might imagine, as long as you have the right supplies, tools, and equipment for the job. In this book, we'll cover things such as the reason you need to stockpile and learn to reload your ammo, the types of tools you need, and the basics of actually reloading.

Chapter 1: The Benefits of Learning to Reload Ammo



Americans are finding it more difficult than ever to get the ammunition they need. Whether they are buying ammo for hunting, target shooting, or for prepping, it's increasingly hard to find stores that have any kind of supply available. As soon as the miniscule amounts get onto the shelves, they are gone.

In some areas, people have actually had to go onto waiting lists in order to get ammo. Few of us like to put our names on lists when it comes to getting any prepping supplies, so this is naturally alarming. Fortunately, there is another way to start adding to the ammo that you have and that you buy, and it is a skill that will become invaluable in the event that the world does collapse on itself.

Quite a few people are considering the benefits that can come from learning to reload ammunition for their rifles, handguns, and even their shotguns. With the right tools and supplies, as well as the knowhow and some practice, it is possible.

Let's look at some of these benefits and why reloading is a skill that you desperately need.

Benefit #1 – Cost Effectiveness

How much does ammunition cost right now? It's outrageous, and if you like to shoot at targets while training, then you know just how much money you can go through in ammo in a single weekend.

Even though you have to consider the cost of the tools and the supplies for reloading, as well as the time it takes to learn the process, you will see that as soon as you pay for the equipment, the savings are immediately apparent.

Economics is one of the biggest reasons that so many preppers today are looking to learn how to reload their ammo.

Benefit #2 – More Control and Customization

When you learn to reload, and actually develop the skill further through practice, you will have more control over the dimensions, quality, consistency, and ballistics of the ammo. This makes it easy to make heavier or lighter loads, to create different types of ammo. For example, some might want to use .38 special loads in their .357 magnum cases for a cleaner overall shooting experience.

It takes time, practice, and patience, but it becomes possible to create a wide range of different types of loads and ammo that have different properties.

Benefit #3 – Reloading Will Be an Essential Survival Skill

Eventually, the pre-purchased ammunition you've been stockpiling will simply run out. You will be out of ammunition and vulnerable if you don't know how to reload your casings and create your own bullets. Vulnerability is the very last thing that you want in a survival situation of any type. Learn this skill now and it will serve you well into the future no matter what it might bring.

Benefit #4 – It Is Actually Fun

Of course, one of the reasons that many preppers overlook is that it's simply fun. Learning a new skill, and then seeing just how that skill actually comes into play in the real world is always great fun. You can experiment with some of the different options when it comes to making your loads and seeing how well they work.

Remember to Teach Others in Your Group

Just as with any type of survival skill that you are developing, the last thing you want to do is to keep that knowledge to yourself. Instead, you need to make sure that more people in your family and your group know how to reload. It doesn't need to be the person's specialty – everyone can have his or her own special skill, such as being a medic, tending to the farm, etc. However, *everyone* should know the process just so he or she can help in a pinch or if something happens to you.

It is the smart way to do things. Many spec ops units, for example, will have a medic who specializes in combat medicine. However, others on the team will have a good grasp of the basics as well as what they need to do in an emergency. This is the same type of learning approach you and everyone in your group needs to take, and that includes learning how to reload ammunition.

Keep Practicing

Reloading ammo is part science and part art. If you want to be effective, and if you want to make ammunition that is actually going to work, then you have to practice. You have to get equipment and gear together right now and start making your own ammunition reloads so you can try them out on the range and in the field.

The last thing you need is to have a disaster hit, start reloading ammo, and then realize that your rifles are unable to eject the casings because they are just a hair too large. You don't want to find out you aren't putting enough powder – or that you are putting in too much powder – to do the job right.

Practice. Take the tips in this book and learn. Learn from as many sources as possible, and if you know someone in the area who already reloads ammo, and who does a good job of it, spend some time talking with and learning from that person. Most will be more than happy to give you the pointers you need.

You might even be able to buy some used equipment and gear from some of them, and that can save you a pretty penny.

You Are On Your Way

In the following chapters, we'll cover all of the basics that you need to know when it comes to getting your ammunition reloaded so you can be "ready for bear", or for whatever else comes your way!

Chapter 2: Stocking Up on Ammo Is Not Enough – How Much Do You Need?



Many preppers and survivalists live according to what they call the survival trinity – Beans, Bullets, and Band-Aids. This essentially means that three of the most important elements of surviving are food and water, ammunition, and first aid. We know that this is a very simplified idea though, and that prepping and *really* learning how to survive goes quite a bit deeper than this.

Still, having this motto in mind can actually be quite helpful when you are considering all of the things that you will need to stockpile in order to make it through any type of disaster or fallout that might occur.

Why Ammunition?

Some people out there look at preppers with disdain when it comes to the fact that preppers have firearms and want to have a large supply of ammunition. In a perfect world, everyone would get along well. We wouldn't have to worry about the dangers that other humans – and some types of wildlife for that matter – could pose.

The Human Element

However, we all know that this world is far from perfect. You've seen the aftermath of disasters… even the aftermath of sports team victories and losses. Looting, rioting, and worse happen frequently. Now, imagine that on an even larger scale. What would happen if people were without electricity for a few days? What would happen?

There would be no way to pay for items at a store unless you had cash, much of the food in stores would spoil, and it would even affect the water supply. Things would start

to look grim very quickly. Some people – many people – would panic. Some would resort to savagery rather quickly. They want what they don't have… they want what preppers such as you have, and they will do whatever they can to take it.

In a world that's suddenly lawless and without help from the authorities, you are the only thing that stands between your family's health and safety and their death. Yes, you *do* need to have ammunition in order to survive and protect yourself from other people. This is not a world of lollipops and rainbows. It's grim, gritty, and sometimes bloody.

Animals

Of course, you don't only need firearms and ammunition to protect against other people who may want to do you and your loved ones harm. Animals can also pose a threat. Whether they are feral dogs, wild animals, or rabid animals, they have the potential to cause substantial injury and even death. Firearms, so long as you have ammunition, are very effective deterrents for people and animals alike.

Another reason that you need to have plenty of ammunition, and that you learn to reload the ammo, is for hunting. If you are at a point where hunting, gathering, and growing is how you are providing most of your food, then you need an ample supply of bullets for hunting. You also have to consider that you will need to have a range of different types of bullets available for different firearms.

How Much Ammo Do You Need?

Before we get into the methods of reloading ammunition, you should always make sure that you have a large stockpile of ammunition in your home and bug out location. If you are ever at the point where you think that you finally have enough ammo… buy some more.

You can never have enough. The more ammo you have stockpiled the less reloading you will have to do later. In a survival situation, you always want to have plenty of ammo. Whenever you use some rounds though, it will be a good idea to set aside a

portion of your day to reload the spent ammo, just so you never have to worry about being without down the line.

Telling you to keep on stockpiling ammo doesn't really give you much of an idea of what you should have in store though. Everyone is in a different situation, so you can take the ideas and guidelines that we will present for a minimum amount of ammo and then tweak it to work for your situation. You might need more, or you might feel you need less.

Let's look at the weapons that you have. Ideally, you will have at least one shotgun, one hunting rifle, a small game rifle, an assault rifle, and a pistol. You may have several or some or each of these. The preceding are the top five types of firearms you should own as a prepper. They ensure that you can cover a wide range of different scenarios and that you can defend you and your loved ones, and hunt for food.

Let's look at each of these different weapon types and see just how much ammunition you should have for each of them.

Shotgun

A shotgun is a wonderful weapon that is useful for hunting as well as for defending home and property. Ideally, you will have at least *500 rounds* for hunting small game such as rabbits, birds, and even squirrels. You should also have *500 rounds* of larger buckshot or slugs as a means of defense.



Assault Rifle

The battle rifle, typically an assault rifle, is the primary means of defense for your home and person. While it could be used as a hunting weapon in a pinch, these weapons are better for defense against those who wish to do you harm. An AR-15 is a prime example. For this weapon, you should

have at least *2000 rounds*.

Long Range Hunting Rifle

Your long-range hunting rifle is also capable of doing hunting and defense work alike. With great sights, as well as a decent scope, the rifle can make hunting much easier. A .30-06 or a .308 is a great option, and it makes a good long-range defense rifle as well, just in case you need it. For this rifle, having at least *1000 rounds* is a good idea.

Small Game Rifle

A .22 is a great option for hunting small game, such as rabbits and squirrels, even though you do need to be a good shot. Get in plenty of practice with the .22 and *all* of your different weapons now. For your .22, have at least *2000 rounds* available. One of the good things about this ammunition is that it is relatively cheap when compared to other ammo on the market.

Pistol

Many different types of semi-auto pistols and revolvers are on the market today, and they are an essential sidearm. While they aren't good for hunting, they are great for defense and making someone think twice before messing with you and your group. With pistols, you should have at least *1500 rounds* of defensive ammo – hollow points, preferably.

Beyond the Minimum

The above is merely a guideline on the minimums that we believe you should have on hand for all of your different firearms. Feel free to go beyond and buy more of each type as you see fit. As mentioned, you really can't ever have too much when it comes to ammo, since you never know what dangers and disasters tomorrow might bring.

Cleaning Equipment

Something else that you need to consider when you are buying your ammunition and stockpiling is that you will also need to have plenty of cleaning equipment and gear for each of your weapons. If you do not take good care of the firearms, they will jam and lock up on you. Take good care of them and they will take good care of you.

How Many Magazines Do You Need?

Another question that generally pops up when people are considering just how much ammunition they will need is how many magazines they should have. Again, this can vary based on each person, but we suggest having a minimum of four magazines for each of your pistols, twelve for your battle rifle, and perhaps five for the long-range rifle. Get the magazines for the battle rifle and the pistols first, and then think about the other weapons.

What Should You Carry with You?

What about when you are going out of your home or base of operations to gather food, go on a run to find medical supplies, or just to patrol the area? How much ammo should you bring with you? It depends on what you are doing, actually. You can't carry all of your weapons with you, so you have to make sure you know exactly what it is that you will be doing while you are out.

If you go out hunting, then you would take your long rifle, along with twenty to thirty rounds. You will generally only need to use a *max* of three shots to take down an animal. Your goal should always be one shot one kill for hunting.

You should always carry a pistol and at least two or three magazines with you. Having a sidearm, whether you are hunting or defending is indispensable.

Stockpiling Is Never Enough

Even if you have more than the minimum for the ammo, that doesn't mean that you have enough. Something could happen to push you out of your current location, and you might not have all of the ammo with you. You might expend more than you realize.

Any number of things could happen that make your supplies dwindle, and that is the reason that you need to know how to reload ammunition, and that's what we are getting into in the following chapters.

Chapter 3: Learn to Love Collecting Casings



After the world goes to hell, you will not have easy access to all of the supplies that you will need when it comes to reloading. This means you will need to learn to collect the supplies that you need. In the next chapter, we'll cover the supplies and the tools that you should be buying right now.

Casing Collection

Here in this short chapter though, we'll be looking at what you will need to do down the line when you are actually out there and surviving. First up on the list is casing collection.

Today, when you are at the range or you are out hunting, you will probably not think much about collecting those casings after firing. They are gone, and you don't need them for anything any longer. However, it is a good idea to get into the habit of picking them up.

In fact, one of the biggest tasks to remember after the SHTF will be collecting your spent ammo casings. You need these if you hope to reload ammo, since you won't be able to fabricate them on your own. Get in the habit of counting your shots and always collecting your casings after shooting.

A good reason to start counting your shots whenever you fire is not only to know how many casings you need to pick up though. In the military, they require that you learn to count your shots so you have an idea of how much ammo you have left in your magazine. Get into that habit yourself.

Quality Casings

Most of the time, the brass that comes out of your weapons after firing will still be in relatively good shape. However, other times, the brass might be damaged, bent, and have damage that happens from something else in the environment. Most of the brass casings should be presently fine for reloading, but you do want to make sure that you always inspect the casings and look at their overall integrity to make sure they are still in good enough shape for reloading.

When you are checking the brass, make sure that you look for the following, which will indicate that they are no longer good enough for reloading, and that you should take them out of the reloading rotation.

- Cracks
- Dents
- Bulges
- Deformed primers (if they have deformed primers, it means that there was too much pressure when firing)

If you were to use a problematic casing when reloading, you would find yourself with a number of issues, and some of them could be potentially dangerous. At best, it would simply not fire. It could damage the weapon, and it could actually cause injury. *Always* make sure your casings are in good shape before you reload them.

Separate Stockpiles

When you are collecting your casings, you also need to get into the habit of separating the brass into different calibers. Have a collection bucket or box for *each* of the different calibers that you find and collect. This way, you do not mix them up.

If you have them all jumbled together, and you suddenly realize that you need to reload 100 .223 rounds, picking them out from a bucket full of all different caliber casings will

be a nightmare. Label the box or bucket and simply start separating them every single time that you shoot. It will become second nature.

It’s Not as Hard as You Might Think

In the next chapter, we’ll cover getting your casings ready for reloading. It seems complicated and like a lot of work at first, but once you have the supplies and you’ve done it a time or two, it really is easy.

Chapter 4: Cases, Primers, Gunpowder, and Bullets



In order to reload ammunition, you need to have certain ingredients, not to mention the right tools. In this chapter, we'll look at each of the ingredients you need, how you can get them, and why you might want to start stockpiling them *right now*.

Ammunition will have four basic pieces.

- Cases
- Primer
- Powder
- Bullets

Together, these make up a round, or cartridge, depending on the terminology that you prefer. A common misconception of many people is that the bullet refers to all of the components, but that's not the case. The bullet is only the projectile part of the cartridge; the part that actually fires from the weapon and does the damage.

What Should You Stockpile?

Primers, along with powder are an element of the cartridge that you cannot reuse. It's not possible to make these either, at least not effectively, no matter what someone might tell you. Black powder simply won't work well for most modern firearms. The rounds you make will be less effective, and it can be hard to predict how they will behave. This means that you really do need to stockpile these, along with bullets. While it is possible to make your own bullets, it is not as easy as simply having a stockpile of the projectiles available. Still, we'll go over the basics of how you can do it if you have no other choice.

Once you have your minimum amount of ammunition stocked up, it's time that you started to buy some of these reloading supplies as well. Something that you will want to take note of is that it is getting almost as difficult to get reloading supplies and tools, as it is to buy actual ammunition. Smart preppers will start stocking up right now. The prices could start going up soon.

Cases

As a continuation of the last chapter, we'll talk about the cases first. After the process of collection, you will need to clean your casings. It is easy, but is a step you do not want to neglect.

Use a soft cloth to rub the inside of the casing in order to remove the dirt and residue that might be inside of it. To get into the inside of the casing, you can use a case neck brush.

If you don't have one of these brushes, which you might not if you are a couple of years into a survival scenario, then you can simply use something that is cylindrical and that has a slightly smaller diameter than the casing. This needs to be able to accommodate soft cloth as well.

It should take just a couple of seconds at most to clean the interior, as well as the exterior of the casing. They do not have to look brand new. They just need to be free of the grit and dirt so you can load them properly.

Once you have them cleaned up nicely, you will want to lubricate them before you actually start the reloading process. If you do not lubricate them, there is a chance that they could actually stick in the sizing die. They need just a light coating of lubricant, so don't go overboard.

Case Safety

Something you should understand is that you want to collect brass. If you find steel an aluminum jacketed cartridges, you don't want to attempt to reload them. It is not safe. Simply toss them out. Keep this in mind when you are buying your ammunition to stockpile. *Only* buy brass if you hope to reload it.

Primers

You will find primers in two basic styles for pistols and two basic styles for rifles. They are available in *small pistol* and *large pistol*, as well as *small rifle* and *large rifle*. Smaller primers are naturally for smaller cartridges. These include cartridges for revolvers as well as semi-auto handguns.

You always want to make sure you are using the right sized primer, and the right type of primer (rifle or pistol) when reloading cartridges.

A .9mm round would need a small pistol primer, for example, while a .45 ACP would need a large pistol primer. Mixing them up could create serious problems, so when you store them, make sure you label them and keep them separate. The 5.56mm NATO, (or .223 Remington) would use the small rifle primer, while the 7.62 NATO (or .308 Winchester) would use the large rifle primer.

Because of the size difference, it is generally easy enough to tell the difference between them. However, pistol and rifle primers are of similar size, and you never want to confuse those two either. As mentioned, keep them separate so you don't ever run the risk of making a mistake.

The Subtypes

In addition to the four basic types of primers, you will also find quite a few different subtypes available. These include the following.

- Standard

- Match
- Military grade
- Magnum

Even though these other types of primers or subtypes, rather, exist, you really don't have to worry about them. Instead, you can keep things simple and simply go with the standard primers for both rifles and pistols. This is true even when you are reloading ammo for your assault rifles, such as the AR-15.

You can find primers from a number of manufacturers, including popular names such as Remington, Winchester, CCI, and Federal. They all have high quality primers, and you should have success with any of the top brands.

Primer Safety

You do need to be careful with primers, as they could explode. Treat them the same way that you would any loaded and ready to fire ammunition. Keep it in a place with a stable temperature, preferably a bit cooler, and make sure there is not too much humidity or moisture.

Gunpowder

As mentioned, black powder, even though it could work in a pinch, is simply not ideal for reloading. Instead, you want to make sure that you have plenty of smokeless powder. You can find a wide range of different types of powder on the market for reloading today, and it can be quite confusing when you are trying to choose.

Powders have different burning rates. Some burn fast, and these are ideal for reloading pistol ammo. The powder with a slower burn is better for reloading rifle cartridges. You could simply start stocking up on both a fast and a slow burn powder, so you have something that will work well for all of the different types of ammunition that you need to reload. Again, make sure you label it and keep it separate.

When you are buying powder, you can buy online or from local stores. Keep in mind that if you buy online, you will have to pay an additional hazardous fee on the shipping charge. It could be quite a bit cheaper to buy locally. However, if the local stores are out, which could happen, then you may have no other choice but to go with an online seller.

Powder Safety

It is important to make sure you are always as safe as possible when you are reloading your ammo and when working with powder. The smokeless powder that you can buy is extremely stable, and it will not explode. However, it can burn, and it can burn fast. Make sure that you never have any open flames near your powder when you are working, or in the storage area.

Again, keep the powder in a stable temperature and keep out the humidity and moisture so that it can last.

Bullets

As you probably already know, the number of different types of bullets out there is almost overwhelming. It's possible to take the different types and then to break them down into two large overarching categories – jacketed and lead bullets. Some of the subcategories include hollow point and round nose.

An important thing to note for safety is that you should not use the bullets that have a point, rather than a rounded tip, in tubular magazine rifles. The recoil might actually cause the bullets stacked in the rifle to fire.

Buying factory bullets and stockpiling them for loading is a good option, although you can make your own, as you will see in the next section. Using factory bullets is simply faster, easier, and safer. Choose bullet types for the weapons that you own, naturally. Again, because these are relatively cheap, it's a good idea to stock up before the prices start rising.

Making Bullets from Scratch

Cast bullets are not too difficult to make, but they do take additional time and tools. You will need to have a melting pot for the lead, along with bullet molds for each of the calibers you want to make. You also need a water bucket. Naturally, you also need to have lead, and you need to make sure the lead is clean before you melt it.

The melting pot that you use should *only* be used for melting the lead, and not a pot that you also use to cook your food. Take other basic safety precautions as well. Wear long sleeves, have a good pair of gloves, and use eye protection. Molten lead hurts terribly when you get it on your skin. You *don't* want this to happen, so you should always proceed slowly and carefully. Always err on the side of caution.

You should only heat up the lead to melt it in a well-ventilated area, and because you are using heat and fire to do this, you need to *make sure you are nowhere near your powder and primers*.

Lead will melt at 328 degrees Celsius, or 621 degrees Fahrenheit. It can take some time to get the lead to melt thoroughly. Keep in mind that when you are melting the lead, it is actually going to be sticking to the sides of the pot when you are pouring it. This means you should add more lead than you actually think you need for casting the bullets.

Keep air bubbles from forming in the lead by carefully swirling it in the pot. Then use the ladle or a spout to pour the lead into the bullet mold gently and carefully. After you pour the lead, you will want to let it sit in the mold for about ten to fifteen minutes so that it can cool down enough for you to handle.

You will also notice that you have a few spills here and there. You don't want to waste any of your lead though. Use a flat head screwdriver to pick up that cooled lead.

Once the bullet is cool in the mold, you will want to remove it from the mold and inspect it. The first few times you mold your own bullets, you'll probably come out with more

than a few misshapen pieces. Just toss them back into your collection of lead, and then you can try again.

If you plan to be making a large number of bullets, then you will need to have a large number of molds. It's a good idea to make just one caliber at a time though. Keep your bullets separate and labeled, just as you do with your casings.

The Trouble with Lead

Keep in mind that even though lead is simple to use, it can cause some issues. Lead will typically leave residue in the barrels of the guns. This happens more often with high velocity rounds. To combat this, some might want to create lower velocity rounds by using less powder. This can help, but it could also limit the effectiveness of the bullets, particularly those for long ranges. Proper cleaning of the weapons can help as well, but your best bet is to buy the prefabricated and ready to use bullets.

Of course, once you are in an actual survival situation, knowing how to make your own lead bullets is a skill that will serve you well. Learn how to do it and certainly practice so you know how to do it. However, you might want to stick with the premade bullets for most of your current reloads.

Chapter 5: The Tools You Need for the Job

Before we get into the basics of how to actually go about the reloading process, it's a good idea to look at the various tools that you will want to have in order to make the job as simple as possible.

A Reloading Manual

This book gives you a very good overview of what you need to do when it comes to reloading your ammunition. In addition to this book, we highly suggest supplementing it with another book on reloading that can go into deeper detail for the specific cartridges and calibers that you will be using. After having read this book, you should have the basic knowledge you need to get started.

Another manual just helps to give you the finer details for different types of cartridges, for example. Also, think about the future. If you can't access electricity, then you might not have access to this manual. While much of what's contained here will be committed to your memory, having a manual that you, and others you are teaching, can use is a good idea. Some good options to consider include *The ABCs of Reloading* and *Hornady Reloading Handbook*.

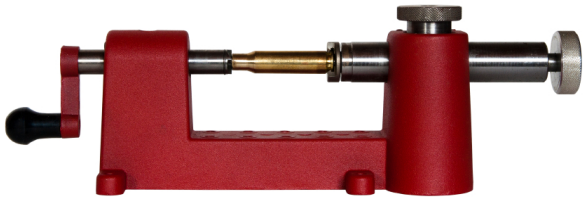
Reloading Press Kit

A good reloading press kit is the best way to buy for the most part. It will contain all, or at least most, of the items you will need. It will include the press, tools for measuring the powders, a case loading block, a tool for removing the burrs from the bullets (very helpful for cast lead), a hand priming tool, case lube kit, and funnel. Keep in mind that different kits may contain more or fewer components.

Take some time to explore the various kit options out there, and check reviews from actual users to see what people have to say about the kits. Of course, you can also buy all of the different tools that you need separately. This could give you more control over

just what you get, and it might even be cheaper. Consider buying some used equipment if you are on a tight budget.

Your Reloading Press



When it comes to the reloading press, you have a number of choices when it comes to the manufacturers. Single stage presses and progressive presses are both popular, and the one that you choose, including the manufacturer, is up to you. It's a good idea to research the different options that you have available. Again, head to reviews to get a good idea of what it can offer.

Electric presses are available, but they are not a good idea, at least if you want to be able to continue reloading once the electricity is gone. They also happen to be quite expensive when compared to the other options out there.

Die Sets

You will be loading a number of different types of cartridges – all of the ones we talked about earlier in the book. This means that you will need to have die sets for each of those calibers. In addition to looking at the different calibers available among the die sets, you can also look for different seating stems for different types of bullets – round nose, wad cutters, hollow points, and others.

Make sure you have all of the seating stems and die sets for the various bullets you will want to make. Additionally, you will want to have several *punches* of varying sizes, which you can use to remove the old primers.

Gunpowder Scales

You also need a quality scale for measuring gunpowder to make sure you are loading the right amount of powder into the cartridges. Many people use digital scales because they are simple and convenient.

Again, if you don't have electricity or batteries, these will not work. It's better to learn how to use a traditional beam scale instead. Another benefit of using this type of scale is the fact that digital scales can be finicky when it comes to measuring properly in different temperatures. Traditional scales do not have these problems. Some of the best and most popular scales are from Ohaus.

Eye Protection

Whenever you are working with reloading equipment, you need to make sure you are taking proper care of your eyes. Some simple eye protection, goggles or safety glasses, can help reduce the risk of an eye injury because of an accident. In a pinch, you could simply use a pair of glasses. We suggest getting one or two good pair of safety glasses or goggles now and simply storing them with the rest of your equipment.

Brass Case Trimmer

You should also invest in a brass case trimmer, so you can be sure your rifle brass is always at the right length before reloading. We'll cover the importance of this step as well as when you need to use it in the next chapter. You'll be able to find a range of different trimmers for well under $100. Some good options come from Forster. You may even be able to find some press kits that have them included.

Worth the Cost

When you start to look at the cost of reloading equipment, the price can seem rather daunting. All of the equipment you need, even if you were to buy used tools, will cost well into the hundreds of dollars. Considering you also need to buy primers, powder,

bullets, and maybe even some extra cases, it's easy to see why the cost intimidates some people.

However, you really do have to look at the big picture. Look at the cost of ammo right now. It's high and it keeps getting higher. With the supplies running low and fewer and fewer stores being able to stock their shelves, it means that reloading might be your only option in the future.

Additionally, break down the actual costs. When you are making your own ammo, it will ultimately cost less. Because of the lower cost, it means that the equipment you buy now will pay for itself, and it might pay for itself sooner than you think.

Don't Cut Corners

Something that's important to remember is that even if you have the knowledge to reload, you won't be able to do it if you have shoddy equipment. You don't have to go out and buy the most expensive items on the market, but you should make sure that you actually buy quality gear for the job. Saving a few dollars on your press now by going with a cheaply made version could come back to bite you in a few years.

Chapter 6: The Basics of Reloading

As we've mentioned, reloading is part art and part science. You can learn the basics here, but the only way to really get the hang of it and know what you are doing is to get the equipment you need and get started, or find someone you know who is already reloading and learn the tricks of the trade from them.

Are You Ready?

You have your supply of primers, bullets, powder, and clean brass all ready to go. You've done as we suggested and kept all of the different parts and pieces for different sizes and calibers separate. Now, it's time that you put everything together and started to make your ammunition. Please keep in mind that this covers the basics, and that all of the different presses out there will likely have slightly different instructions and guidelines. Follow those for your particular press.

Remove the Primer and Resize the Cases

In this first step, you will need to remove the old primers from the casings and then resize them to make sure they are the proper size. You can remove the old primer with a punch or with your reloading press by using a de-priming and resizing die.

It is very important that you follow the manufacturer's directions for your specific loading press. While they are all quite similar, there may be some subtle differences between them, so follow the guidelines in your manual.

Adjust the die, according to the directions in the press's manual, and then insert the rim of the case onto the press's shell holder. Raise it into the die by lowering the handle. This should very easily remove the old primer, while also resizing the case for you.

Measure and Trim

It's important to note that you may not need to measure and trim after the first couple of firings from a particular piece of brass. With pistol ammo, you will not have to measure at all. You only really have to worry about this step when it comes to rifle ammo with long necks. This is because these casings will tend to get slightly longer after numerous uses. Simple trimming can ensure that the brass will still work

It's important to note that different types of rifle ammunition and casings have different trim lengths. Before you start reloading, it's a good idea to take the time to look up each of the manufacturer's specific guidelines for their brass trim length. Do this for all of the ammo types you will be reloading, and then note those trim lengths in your paperback or hardback manual, or even just on a piece of paper you keep with your tools. This way, you will always have the information handy.

Place the brass in your trimmer, and trim the cases to length. Once you've done so, inspect the cases to look for burrs, and then remove them with a de-burring tool. This tool will usually be included with your reload press, but you can find them separately if necessary.

Priming the Cases

After you've removed the primer, it's time to put a brand new one back into the casing. You will do this right on your press, but it is important to note that again, different presses and manufacturers will have slightly different means and methods for doing this. Because the specifics of placing the primers *will vary based on the press*, make sure you read, and that you understand, the instructions.

Something that you might want to do right now is head to YouTube and look up your press, so you can see it in action. This is the next best thing to having someone there who can help you and walk you through the process.

You always need to be very careful with the primers. Remember that they are explosive, so you must not hit them when seating them. Also, make sure that you are putting the primers into the bullet in the right position, and that you do not seat it upside down.

When you have a decent press, setting the primers into the cases should be relatively simple.

Make sure that you check for proper seating after you finish with each of the cases. You can do this by simply running your finger along the outside of the casing bottom to see that the primer does not stick out above the primer pocket. It should be smooth and flush, or slightly below the pocket lip. If it sticks out, or has gone in crooked, dispose of the casing.

Charging the Cases

Once you have your primers in place, it is time to add the gunpowder. Once again, each of the different types of rounds you make will require different amounts of powder. Remember that you will have at least two different types of powder: fast burning for pistols and slow burning for rifles. Use the manufacturer's guidelines for the powder amount and reloading specifications. Never go above their recommended amount, or else the results could prove disastrous.

Always weigh the charges with your scale to make sure you have a consistent amount going into all of your ammo. This ensures consistency with all of your ammo, so you can rely on your shots each time you fire the weapon.

Seating

Your primers are in place, and you have the powder added to the casing. Now, it's time to add the bullets. To do this, you will need to take your bullet seating die on the press and insert a bullet into the case mouth. Raise the case and the bullet into the die with the level. You will then turn the adjustment seating on the press until you feel it making contact with the bullet. Then, you will lower the ram and turn the adjustment knob slightly. Raise the ram once more, and that should start to seat the bullet. Repeat the process until it is fully seated, and that it is the right height according to the manufacturers.

Each of the rounds, for each caliber, you make should look identical and be the same height.

Crimping

With pistol ammo, crimp around the edge of the bullet with a crimping tool. A taper crimp will work well for both revolver and pistol rounds. As always, check with the manufacturer's guidelines for the ammo to ensure proper crimping, and remember that it can differ based on the type and caliber.

This will help to ensure that the bullet will chamber properly and cycle through the firearm. It will remove any of the possible flaring that might occur when seating the bullet as well. When you are crimping though, you have to make sure that you never crimp the rounds too much. Rifle bullets will not always need crimping, but you should check each of the rounds to be sure. If there is flaring, then it's a good idea to crimp.

The Inspection

While you should be looking at each of the rounds through each step of the process to ensure quality, you will also want to conduct some final quality control just to make sure that they are in good shape and that they will work properly when you fire them.

After inspection, remove those rounds that have issues, and place the rest of your ammo into your storage area with other cartridges of the same type. It's a good idea to take some of your reloads out and test them to see how well they work in each of your different weapons.

Getting Better

It will give you a chance to determine if there are could be improvements and customizations you might want to try. Of course, getting to the point of actually customizing the ammo to improve accuracy takes some time. Start practicing now so

that when the SHTF, you are able to reload ammo reliably, and have quality rounds each and every time.

Chapter 7: Shotgun Shell Reloading



Shotgun shell reloading has quite a few similarities to reloading rifle and pistol ammunition. However, it is different enough that it does warrant its own chapter. Keep in mind that even though shot shells seem simple, a number of different types of shot, such as buckshot, slugs, and birdshot exist. Each of these will require different amounts of powder, loads, etc.

This chapter, like the last, will go over the basics to give you an overview of what it takes to reload shotgun shells.

In order to learn how to reload a shotgun shell, let's first look at the different pieces that make up the shell.

- Hull
- Plastic Wadding
- Shot
- Primer
- Shot Shell Powder

The Hull

The Hull is the outer portion of the shotgun shell, the plastic portion, that is typically red, but that could be different colors based on the manufacturer. You need to have high quality hulls, such as those from Remington and Winchester. It's a good idea to stockpile a large number of these hulls. You can collect hulls from shells that you've already fired.

When reloading hulls, look at them to determine whether they have any large tears, cracks, or other deficiencies in them. If they do, then you can't use them. Discard them. Start learning to love collecting these hulls just as much as you do brass from firing your

other weapons. Keep in mind that you will typically be able to get three reloads, and possibly four, from a hull before having to dispose of it.

Plastic Wadding

The plastic wadding, which you can and should stockpile of you will be reloading your own shotgun shells, is just as the name suggests – a measured wad of plastic that will go between the powder charge and the shot. When fired, the primer ignites the powder, which propels the wad and pushes all of the shot out of the shell at the same time. In some cases, they are made of paper rather than plastic.

Shot

The shot is the equivalent of the bullet from a rifle or pistol round. These are the projectiles, and they are available in a host of different sizes, and are typically lead or a similar metal. It can consist of a number of pellets, or a single projectile, called a slug.

Primers

The primer for a shotgun shell does exactly the same thing that the primer in a rifle round or pistol round does. They explode when a firing pin strikes them, and this in turn ignites the powder.

Shot Shell Powder

Just as with the other rounds, the powder burns and forms gases, and then pushes all of the shot forward and out of the barrel of the shotgun.

Reloading the Shotgun Shells

Now that you know the parts of the shell, we'll cover how to reload the shells. Just as with the other types of rounds, you will need to de-prime your shells. Make sure you have a re-loader that will take shotgun shells, place the shell into the loader. The

uncapping pin will then remove the cap from the shell. Putting it into the loader also ensures that you can resize the casing slightly to the proper specifications.

Keep in mind that the load sizes will be different based on the type of shell you are loading. As with other rounds, you need to consult manufacturer specifications in order to get it right. Most of the time, you will be putting between 16 and 20 grains of shot shell powder into the case. Looking in a reloading guide specifically for shotgun shells can help you as well. Buy and stockpile both primers and powder, as you do with other types of rounds too.

Add the Powder and Wadding

After you remove the primer, you will need to reset a new primer into the case via the loader. Keep in mind that the different loaders may work slightly differently, and just as with the pistol and rifle reloads, you will want to make sure that you follow the instructions for your press.

Once you have the powder in place, you will seat the wadding and then the shot. Use the lever to insert the plastic wadding, and then the shot that you want for the type of shell you are making.

The Right Type of Shot

For 12-gauge ammo, you can generally choose between 7.5, 8, and 9 in terms of size. You can buy these in large bags. If you are new to shotguns, keep in mind that the smaller the number, the lighter each of the individual pieces of shot will be. Those who will be using the shotgun for hunting small game will likely want smaller shot since it leaves more of the animal intact. When making rounds for defense, larger shot, and slugs, is typically a better idea.

Crimping the Shell

The final step is to crimp the shell. You can do this via your loader as well by simply rotating it. This should close the shell so that everything stays nice and intact.

It is also possible to crimp the shells by hand, although this is not easy. Folding the top of the case isn't difficult with a dowel or even a screwdriver, but keeping it closed is the hard part. Some suggest using superglue or even candle wax as a means to keep it shut if you don't have a re-loader and crimper that will do the job for you.

Keeping the Shells

Make sure that you inspect the shells once you finish with them to make sure they look like they are in good shape. Store them in the appropriate place, and as always, have a separate area or container for each of the different types of shotgun shells that you are reloading. Organization makes things far easier in the end.

Chapter 8: Improvisation – When You Have No Other Choice and the Dangers It Brings

In this chapter, we'll talk about improvisation. While it might be necessary sometimes, especially for the survivalist who is years into a survival situation, it is not a good idea. You *always* want to make sure that you have the right equipment and supplies if you are able. Improvisation should be a last resort because it is simply not safe.

We'll look at some of the items and techniques people have used for improvising, but we won't cover exactly how to do it simply because doing so would be irresponsible as it could cause injury to those who try it.

Casings

One of the items that some have used to make the casings for their bullets is brass tubes, including curtain rods. They try to find rods that are close to the same size of the actual round casings and use those with a little bit of tweaking and resizing. They cut them to size and hope for the best.

Black Powder

It is possible to make your own black powder with potassium nitrate, saltpeter, and charcoal. You should grind each of these ingredients separately – you can use a mortar and a pestle for this or a professional grinder if you have one.

Combine the charcoal and sulfur and grind it into a fine powder. For each 100g of this mixture you have, you will want to pour 2.5 cups of isopropyl alcohol and chill it. You should then measure out 75% potassium nitrate to 25% charcoal sulfur mixture.

To prepare the nitrate, you will add a quarter cup of water for each 100g of nitrate. Bring this to boil in a pan you do not use for cooking. Stir constantly and continue to add small

amounts of water until the nitrate dissolves. Then, add your charcoal and sulfur mix to the pot of boiling nitrate. Stir until combined.

Take outside and combine this mix with the chilled alcohol. Take that mix and chill it as quickly as possible. Filter the mix through an old piece of cloth to help remove the water. Let it dry in the sun, and then press it and let it continue to dry. When it finally dries, you can store it.

That's all it takes to make black powder, but the quality can vary greatly depending on conditions. Because of this, it means that the results for creating your own ammo can vary greatly.

What About Primers?

Keep in mind that even if you can fabricate cases, bullets from lead, and black powder, you are still going to need to have a primer in order to make it work. There is no real viable way that those who are not professionals can make a primer with any degree of safety.

Too Dangerous

Improvising when it comes to loading ammunition is dangerous and the results are unpredictable, even when you take precautions. Instead of putting yourself in danger, we urge you to start collecting and stockpiling all of the ingredients that you need to reload ammo the proper way instead.

Chapter 9: Storing Your Ammunition

When it comes to storing your ammunition for long periods, you need to make sure that you do it correctly so that it will last and stay usable. One of the biggest issues that you will likely face is corrosion, generally caused because of humidity. This can wear away the cases a bit, and it could potentially make the cartridges dangerous to fire. You should always consider the environmental conditions when you are storing your ammunition.

The Conditions

If you do not store the ammunition properly, there is a chance that the primers could lose their sensitivity, so that they will not explode when struck with a firing pin. The powder could get wet if not loaded and then stored properly. The cases can rupture, and you could find a host of other problems and issues.

With manufactured ammo, as well as your reloaded ammo, they tend to keep well in most environments from the cold of the tundra to a tropical island. The extremes can cause danger. When it is too moist, or there are excessively high temperatures, there are hazards. A little forethought into where you will store the ammo can go a long ways though.

Keep in mind these three things when you are trying to store your ammo. You want the storage area to be cool, dark, and dry.

Keep It Cool

Ideally, you will want to have relatively cool and stable temperatures to have the best possible storage conditions. This should be between about 50 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. When it gets too cold or too hot, it could mean that the powder simply deteriorates to the point that the round becomes useless.

In the Dark

By keeping the ammo in the dark, it helps to reduce the chance of an issue when it comes to “overheated” ammo. Underground storage is a good idea because it tends to be easy to keep it both cool (it’s easier to keep a constant temperature underground), and it is certainly out of the sun.

Keep the Powder Dry

You are probably familiar with the saying “keep your powder dry”. This is an old phrase from when people were only using black powder. Today, your powder will typically stay dry since it is in the casing and out of the elements. However, within brass casings, temperature changes from very hot to very cold, and back, can cause condensation to build, and this has the potential to moisten and therefore ruin your ammo.

What Works to Help Keep the Ammo Ready to Fire?

Most of the time, simply keeping the rounds in paper boxes, or even a bucket, is all you need. However, those who plan to store the ammo for a number of years, as many preppers will do, can look into a couple of other options that can help them keep their ammo “farm fresh”.

Dehumidifier

For now, you can add a dehumidifier to the area where you store your ammunition. This will certainly help to keep the moisture levels lower and help to increase the life of the ammunition. Of course, in a survival scenario, you will no longer be able to use one of these devices. That’s fine. You will simply want to use it for now, while you are able. You can do some other things to help you keep your ammo in shape after the SHTF.

Neoprene Seal Rings

Those who will be storing their ammo for years should consider getting some surplus ammo cans that the military uses. These have neoprene seals on them, and they can help to keep out some of the dangers to ammo, so long as you continue to abide by the rules of dry, dark, and cool.

You can also consider vacuum sealing, which can work as well.

Silica Packets

Another good trick that you can use to make sure there is no extra moisture in the area where you are storing your ammo is to add a load of silica packets. You can place these in the ammo buckets and cans, and they will help to draw away any moisture that could potentially damage the ammo.

Checking Your Ammo

When you are storing ammunition, whether factory ammo or ammo you reload, it is important that you spot check it at least once a year to make sure that it is still in good condition. You want to look at the casings to check for signs of corrosion and for actual humidity that might be in the cans or the buckets.

You can also rotate your ammo. Use the oldest ammunition first.

Proper Labeling

We've mentioned this before, but it is one of those things that certainly needs repeating. You need to label your ammunition properly. In addition to knowing the caliber, you also need to make sure that you note the date that you put the ammo into storage – this helps with rotating and with knowing when to check the ammo.

You can and should make note of just how many rounds you have. Update this whenever you remove rounds or add rounds. You always want to make sure that you know just how many rounds you have at any given time.

Keeping Your Ammo Secure

Preppers know that when it comes to keeping the ammo secure, it is more than just having it all in a single place. It's more than just putting it into a cool, dry, and dark area. It's about the safety and security of the ammunition.

A Good Location

Just as you have secure locations for your firearms that will keep them out of the hands of thieves and looters, you need to do the same thing when it comes to your ammunition.

Put it into a safe location, and consider locking it up with a combination lock (because it is possible to lose keys). Have it hidden. It's possible to find actual ammunition safes on line and in many guns and ammo stores. They are nice, but not necessary if you have some secret places around your home or bug out location where you can store the ammo.

Try not to keep all of your guns and ammo in the same location. Having at least two separate locations will ensure that anyone who does get into your place and steals it will be less likely to get everything that you have.

Something else that you need to consider when it comes to your ammo is the fact that you need to have plenty of space. Ammunition, especially when you store large quantities, takes up a substantial amount of space. Make sure you have plenty of space. Again, keeping it in a couple of locations is a good option. However, you have to remember that doing this requires you to ensure those proper dark, dry, and cool environments for each of the places you store the ammo.

Keep Quiet

Chances are good that you have quite a few different prepping items that can help to make your life easier. You have food, water, guns, ammo, bullion, and everything else that you need to weather any storm that might come. You are ready for you and your family, or your small group, to survive.

You need to make sure that you are quiet when it comes to your preps though. Only those in your group should know, and you should instruct them to remain quiet as well. When the SHTF, the last thing you need is to have all of your neighbors start knocking on your door. Even worse, some of those neighbors could turn on you. If you have ammo and weapons, and they know what you have, they might try to get it for themselves.

All you have to do is keep your lips zipped.

A Tip for Conserving Ammunition

One of the reasons that people have trouble when it comes to conserving their ammunition is that they waste bullets because they are taking more shots than necessary. This is especially true when it comes to the ammunition for those who are new to hunting.

There is a big difference between being gung ho and wanting to prep and *really* learning what it takes to survive. Hunting requires that you put an animal in your sites, pull the trigger, and kill the animal. Some people have trouble with this, and their aim and accuracy actually suffer. Others are simply terrible shots.

If you are a bad shot, this means you will be wasting ammo. You want your bullets to make fast work of any target. One shot, one kill, remember. Three shots at most.

Right now is the best time to start practicing so you can improve your aim. If you've never been hunting, start now. Doing so can actually help you conserve ammo in the future.

Chapter 10: Remember These Safety Tips for Reloading and More

Reloading helps you save money, prepares you for real survival, and it can be fun, as we've already established. However, it does have the potential to be dangerous, even when you are using high quality materials. This chapter on safety might just be the most important chapter in this book. Take all of the information you read here to heart and commit it to memory.

The safety tips that follow cover a number of elements when it comes to reloading and working with ammunition.

Safety Tips for Basic Reloading

- Keep in mind that smokeless powder is more potent and powerful than black powder. Always make sure you know the difference, and that you never confuse the two. If you use smokeless powder for a black powder reload, it will be too powerful, and it could damage the weapon, and you. If you do the opposite, it will not be powerful enough in many cases.
- Always follow the loading recommendations from manufacturers.
- Never use substitutes – always use the best quality parts and ingredients.
- Don't load more than you should, as the pressure that comes from excessive loads can damage the weapon. In some cases, it can also cause injury and death.
- Don't reload if you are tired, disturbed, or distracted. You need to focus on what you are doing.
- Do not try to reload plastic cases used for practice loads.
- Always follow the protocols for loading and do not skip steps or do steps out of order.
- Make sure your reloading bench is never close to flame, sparks, or heat – this means you should never smoke while reloading.

- Check the cartridge length to help ensure proper seating.
- Make sure you keep your safety glasses on while you are reloading.
- Always examine the cases before reloading, and get rid of those that have any sign of defects.
- Organization and an uncluttered environment is a safe environment.
- Label all of your reloads and components.
- Never eat when you are handling lead, as it could actually poison you.
- Never drink or take any illicit substance when you are reloading ammo.

Safety Tips for Working with Smokeless Powder

- Never mix different types of powders.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when it comes to using and packing the powder.
- Make sure you store your powder, just as you do with your finished loads, in a cool and dry place.
- Always double-check the weight and size of the charge before you add the powder. Doubling up the charge could prove disastrous.
- Only pour out the amount of powder you need for the current session of reloading.
- Don't use black powder when you need smokeless powder. Rifle and pistols always need smokeless powder, but make sure you are using the correct powder for the job – fast for pistols, slow for rifles.
- Never carry powder in your clothes. Wash your clothing afterwards as well. If you have powder on your sleeves, for example, and you get too close to an open flame after reloading, you could ignite!
- Always wash your hands after handling powder.
- Always make sure the powders are dry and in tight containers.
- Use a dustpan and broom to clean up spilled powder.
- Never mix powders.

Safety Tips for Primers

- Always keep the primers separate. Different primers have different explosive force, and you do not want to confuse the two, as they can cause injury as well as damage to the firearm.
- Never try to de-cap an active and live primer. Instead, fire it and then de-cap, or discard the round.
- Never enlarge the hole in the primer pocket. Doing so could cause an increase in the pressure chamber, which could damage the gun and cause a larger and unpredictable explosion.
- If you find primers and are unable to identify them (because of improper labeling or you came across them while scavenging) you should not use them. You always need to know what primer you are using.
- If there is resistance when trying to seat the primer, do not force it. This could cause an explosion.
- Store them in a cool and dry place, just as you do with the rest of your supplies and your loaded ammo. If the temperatures get too high, they will become less effective.
- If your hands are wet, oily, or have any grease on them, don't work with primers. These substances can make it more difficult for the primer to ignite.

Safety Tips for Handling Lead

Let's talk about let for a moment. As useful as it is, and as necessary as it is when creating your own bullets, that does not mean it is safe. Lead can cause physical injury, birth defects, and even poisoning. Therefore, you need to make sure that you are always as careful as possible when you are handling lead.

- Always have proper ventilation when working with lead.
- Wear a mask or piece of cloth tied around your face to reduce the chance of inhaling lead dust.

- Always wash your hands before you touch your face or mouth after handling lead, and never eat when handling it.
- If you have latex gloves in sufficient supply, you may want to consider wearing them whenever you have to handle lead.

Safety Tips for Shotgun Shells

- Always select hulls, or cases, that are in good condition. If they have splits or cracks in them, then you need to discard them.
- Make sure that the base wad is in good shape.
- Make sure you have the correct powder weight for the type of shotgun shells you are loading – check the manufacturer's specifications.
- Always use the best quality wads, primers, and other elements.
- Make sure the crimping on the shotgun shells is nice and tight.

Safety First and Foremost



As you can see, you need to consider quite a few things when you are reloading ammunition if you want to be as safe as possible. This is very important in today's world where medical help is typically only minutes away. Take a moment to consider just how much more dangerous reloading without using safety precautions would be when there is no medical help other than the people in your group.

What would you do if injured by a primer or burned by gunpowder? Even a small injury could result in an infection or a wound that won't heal. This could prove deadly in a survival situation.

Also, consider what might happen to your firearms. Even if you aren't injured yourself, if there is damage to your weapons, then it could limit your chance of survival. How would you hunt? How would you defend yourself?

Safety is no laughing matter. Whether you are reloading for target shooting fun or you are reloading for hunting and survival, you have to take things very seriously every step of the way.

So long as you do use those proper safety protocols mentioned here though, and you don't rush, you will not have any trouble reloading your ammo.

Conclusion



By now, you should have a much better understanding of reloading ammo and the items you will need to do the job. You are well on your way to starting to reload your own ammunition, but take our advice and keep learning.

Get a manual for reloading that covers your specific types of rounds, professional equipment, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Keep on stockpiling and make sure you have more than you could ever possibly need… because even then it might not be enough.

Do more than just learn about reloading though. Get out there and do it. It's ultimately better for your wallet, and having the ability to create the ammo you need in the event the SHTF gives you the peace of mind you need.

The first couple of times you reload, it will be confusing and the results might not be great. However, with a little practice, it will become second nature. Start now, before it is too late.

Resources

http://survivalblog.com/ammunition_reloading_for_survi/

https://www.survivalmonkey.com/threads/survival-reloading-ammo.49549/

http://www.endtimesreport.com/survival_reloading.html#IMPROVISED

http://uscrow.org/2013/05/19/how-to-make-ammunition-for-prepping/

http://www.thesurvivalistblog.net/how-much-ammo-do-you-need/

http://ultimatereloader.com/reloading-101-2/benefits-of-reloading/

http://www.prep-blog.com/2012/01/30/how-do-you-think-about-ammunition/

http://www.wikihow.com/Reload-Ammo

http://www.handgunsmag.com/handguns/squeeze-play-how-to-properly-crimp-ammunition/

http://homestudy.ihea.com/ammo/12shell.htm

http://www.outdoorlife.com/blogs/gun-shots/2012/08/7-tips-make-reloading-easier

http://offgridsurvival.com/ammostorage/

http://www.gunsandammo.com/ammo/how-to-store-ammo/

http://www.livingreadyonline.com/gear-advice/long-term-ammo-storage-tips

http://www.livingreadyonline.com/gear-advice/long-term-ammo-storage-tips

http://aggdefsol.com/blog/2009/03/ammo-storage-made-easy/

http://aggdefsol.com/blog/2009/03/ammo-storage-made-easy/

http://www.gunvault.com/blog/tips-for-properly-storing-ammo/

http://www.ebay.com.au/gds/How-To-Secure-and-Store-your-Ammunition-/10000000177521697/g.html