

## You asked: What to do with unused ammo?

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When cleaning an old storage space or going through those unwanted boxes, Douglas County residents may stumble across ammunition they no longer need.

What is the next step to unloading that unwanted shot? asked one *Echo Press* reader.

Both the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) and Alexandria Police Department (APD) have the ability to dispose of ammunition, but officials would like to see residents seek alternative uses before discarding it at the local station.

DCSO chief deputy Brad Lake said disposing of unwanted ammunition is not an easy task.

"A Douglas County resident can still bring in old, unused, unwanted ammunition to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office during regular business hours," Lake said in an email. "There may come a day when we have to charge a fee for that service, but for now we still take it free of charge. Ammunition is extremely expensive to properly dispose of because the lead in most rounds is considered a hazardous substance."

This rings true with the APD as well. Captain Scott Kent said the department does not have an active program seeking ammunition, but they occasionally will take in unused rounds.

"We always do it on request, but it's not like we have a central repository for it," he said.

What officials from both entities suggested is

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to first seek out responsible family members or friends who hunt or shoot guns and have a use for the ammunition.

"In this day of high ammunition costs, there are very few rounds that are ever truly 'unwanted' by persons with a hunting or recreational intent, or otherwise legal legitimate need," Lake said.

Lake said places that could welcome unwanted ammunition include gun ranges, privately owned gun stores, shooting clubs or federally licensed firearms dealers. Some individuals are also trained in breaking down ammunition to reuse different components of the cartridge or shell.

If there is a possible safety risk, Lake recommended residents call local law enforcement.

"Always remember that if there is ever a real or perceived public safety concern dealing with ammunition at a private residence or public area, it is always best to error on the side of caution," Lake said. "Call our office and we will dispatch a deputy to the scene to help you make the decision on how to best proceed."



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