



Office for Product  
Safety & Standards



# Staying safe with fireworks

**As the fireworks season approaches,  
the night sky will be lit up with  
firework displays.**

With all the sparkle, it's easy to forget that fireworks can be dangerous if not used correctly and responsibly. This advice will help everyone to stay safe while celebrating.

## Using fireworks at home?

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If you decide to use fireworks at home, here's how everyone can stay safe.

### Only buy from licensed sellers



Check before you buy. Make sure you buy fireworks from a licensed retailer, both in-store and online. Do not buy fireworks from unknown retailers on social media sites. It's illegal for anyone under 18 to buy or carry fireworks.

### Store fireworks safely



Store fireworks in their original packaging. Lock them away from children and animals. Keep fireworks dry and away from sources of heat or ignition.

### Check your timings



Did you know that you can't let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am? The only exceptions are Fireworks Night, when the cut-off is midnight, and Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year, when it's 1am. Timings may be different in Scotland. Search '**fireworks**' on **gov.scot** for more advice.

### Be considerate



People and animals may be affected by fireworks. Let your neighbours know in advance if you're planning on using any fireworks. Be mindful of where you site fireworks to minimise disruption.

### Look after pets



Cats and dogs should stay inside. Give small animals who live outside lots of extra bedding and nesting material to burrow in.

### Read all the instructions



The box of fireworks will tell you important things like how far away people need to stand back once the firework is lit. If you don't understand the instructions and warnings, don't use the firework.

### Dispose of fireworks safely



Ensure that fireworks are out, soak them in water overnight, then put them in a rubbish bag and in the bin.

## Which fireworks can I use at home?

Category information can be found on the label.

**Category F1, F2 and F3** fireworks are on sale to the general public. Consumer fireworks will fall into either category F2 or F3 depending on how much of a **safety distance** is required. Check you have enough space to safely use a firework before you buy. Always follow the Firework Code [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com)

Go to [www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law](http://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law) for more advice

