



Office for Product
Safety & Standards



Staying safe with fireworks

As the fireworks season approaches, the night sky is 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?

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 under-18s 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 and 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.

Be considerate



Let your neighbours know in advance if you plan to let off **any** fireworks. People and animals can be distressed by fireworks. Site fireworks to minimise disruption.

Read all the instructions



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

Keep pets indoors



Cats and dogs should stay inside.

Dispose of fireworks safely



Ensure the fireworks are out, soak them in water, 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 F2 and **F3** fireworks are on sale to the general public. A consumer firework will fall into one of these two categories depending on how much of a **safety distance** it requires. Check you have enough space to safely use a firework before you buy it.

Category F4 fireworks are **not** for home use. They are only to be used by people with specialist knowledge at professional displays.

Search 'fireworks' on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for more advice

