



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 you keep people and nearby animals safe.



How to use fireworks safely

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.

Stick to celebration dates



The firework curfew is midnight on Fireworks Night, 1am on Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year, and 11pm the rest of the year. People expect fireworks around these dates, so they're more likely to have planned ahead to protect pets and vulnerable people.

Be considerate



Let your neighbours know in advance if you plan to let off **any** fireworks, so they can make arrangements for vulnerable people and pets that might be afraid. If you live close to horses, make sure you let their owners know well in advance. Site your fireworks well away from them and aim them in the opposite direction. Please be considerate as horse owners cannot easily move them away from fireworks.

Keep pets safe



Dogs and cats might be scared and should be kept inside with somewhere to hide. Give small animals who live outside lots of extra bedding and nesting material to burrow in.

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

Don't disturb wildlife, horses or farm animals



Just like pets, wild animals, horses and farm animals can be distressed by fireworks. Don't let off fireworks if they'll disturb nearby horses or farm animals, wildlife habitats, or roosting bats and birds.

Follow the instructions



Read all the safety warnings on the box so you know important things like how far away people need to stand. If you don't understand the instructions and warnings, don't use the firework. Once any debris has cooled down, tidy it up and soak it in water. Then put it 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.

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