



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.

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 anyone under 18 to buy or carry fireworks.



Don't disturb wildlife, horses or farm animals

Just like pets, wild animals, horses and farm animals may be affected by fireworks. Notify nearby farms and stables if you are planning to use fireworks. Don't let off fireworks if they'll disturb wildlife habitats, or roosting bats and birds.



Stick to celebration dates

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. People expect fireworks around these dates, so they're more likely to have planned ahead to protect pets and other animals. Timings may be different in Scotland. Search '**fireworks**' on **gov.scot** for more advice.



Read all the safety 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.



Be considerate

Let your neighbours know in advance if you plan to let off **any** fireworks, so they can make arrangements for pets that might be affected. 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

Keep dogs and cats inside with somewhere to hide. Give small animals who live outside lots of extra bedding and nesting material to burrow in.



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 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.