



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

A large, semi-circular image showing a vibrant fireworks display at night. The sky is filled with streaks of red, white, and yellow light, with several large, starburst-like explosions. The background is dark, making the bright colors of the fireworks stand out.

Staying safe with fireworks

As bonfire night 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 and your family to stay safe while celebrating.

How to host safely

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at an organised display. The fireworks will be bigger, you're not responsible for safety and you'll be part of the crowd. If you do decide to host your own firework display, here's how you and your guests can stay safe.

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.



Check your timings

Did you know that you can't let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am? The only exceptions are Bonfire night, when the cut off is midnight, and New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when it's 1am.



Only buy from licensed sellers

Most shops, like supermarkets, can only sell fireworks on certain dates during the year. If you're buying them at a different time you need to visit a specially licensed shop. It's illegal for under-18s to buy or carry fireworks.

Search 'fireworks' on GOV.UK for more advice

Don't let children help

Kids should enjoy the display from a distance and should not be allowed to handle fireworks, tapers and matches.



Keep pets indoors

Furry friends should stay inside. Don't forget that they might be scared by the fireworks.



Having a bonfire?

Bonfires are a fun tradition, but they do have their dangers. Wrap up warm and don't throw anything dangerous onto the fire.

If you're having a bonfire, always:

- ✓ tell your neighbours so they can prepare
- ✓ keep your bonfire away from buildings, sheds, fences and trees
- ✓ have water or a hosepipe ready

Search 'bonfire' on GOV.UK for more advice

