

BERR

Department for Business
Enterprise & Regulatory Reform

SAFE USE OF FIREWORKS

**FIREWORKS
BE SAFE
NOT SORRY
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE**

www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks

Watching fireworks can be great fun for children. But figures have shown that, more often than not, it's children rather than adults who get hurt by fireworks.

Don't put your family at risk.

Follow our easy checklist for a safe home firework display.

Before the display

- Only buy fireworks from a legitimate retailer
 - Inform neighbours and be aware of their concerns
 - Check the fireworks you buy are suitable for the size of garden and conform to BS 7114
 - Read the instructions in daylight or with a torch – never with a naked flame
 - Only one person should be responsible for letting off the fireworks
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Things you will need on the night

- Torch for checking instructions
 - Bucket of water
 - Eye protection and gloves
 - Bucket of soft earth to stick fireworks in
 - Suitable supports for Catherine Wheels, proper launchers for rockets
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During the display

- **It is illegal** to set off fireworks after 11pm (except on 5th November when they can be used up to midnight; and New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali when they can be used up to 1am the following day.)
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Light fireworks at arm's length with a taper

- Stand well back and keep others back
 - Never go back to a firework after it has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode
 - Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
 - Always supervise children
 - Store fireworks in a metal box, kept closed between use
 - Keep pets indoors
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After the display

- Wear strong gloves and use tongs to dispose of spent fireworks
 - Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire
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Sparklers

- Do not give to children under 5
 - Light one at a time
 - Hold sparklers at arm's length and wear gloves
 - Put used sparklers hot end down into a bucket of sand or water
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Bonfires

- Should be at least 18 metres (60ft) away from houses, trees, hedges, fences or sheds
- Use domestic firelighters
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids



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