

**BIS** | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

**SAFE USE OF FIREWORKS**

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

[www.campaigns.direct.gov.uk/fireworkssafety](http://www.campaigns.direct.gov.uk/fireworkssafety)

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.**

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**Follow our easy checklist for a safe home firework display.**

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### **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



Printed in the UK on recycled paper containing a minimum of 75% post consumer waste.  
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