

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS FROM THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE



An organised, public fireworks display is much safer, and more impressive, than setting up your own display. So we'd always recommend finding a public display near you, and going to that.

To buy and let off fireworks, you must be an adult aged 18+

When can you buy fireworks

You can only buy fireworks and sparklers from registered sellers for private use on selected dates in the year:

Between **15 October** and **10 November**

Between **26 to 31 December**

Three days before **Diwali**

Three days before **Chinese New Year**

You can buy fireworks outside these dates, but only from shops with a special licence.

When can you let off fireworks

For the majority of the year, it is illegal to set off fireworks (including sparklers) between 11pm and 7am.

However, for Bonfire Night the curfew is extended to midnight and for New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year the cut off is 1am.

What fireworks can you buy?

Adults can let off category 2 and 3 fireworks. These are available to the general public and can be found in supermarkets.

Safety tips for bonfires, sparklers and fireworks

- If you're having your own fireworks display, plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and ensure it finishes before 11pm
- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Build your bonfire clear of buildings, sheds, fences and hedges
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving
- Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with water
- Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of emergency