


Fireworks!

Your quick guide to using fireworks safely...



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



This quick guide is aimed at giving you information on using fireworks safely and how fireworks are categorised in this country to help you buy the right thing!

Fireworks are enjoyed by many people across the country every year and are increasingly being used for a range of celebrations, not just Guy Fawkes' night.

Most people use fireworks responsibly, however there are some who cause serious nuisances for others by being irresponsible.

The law

Laws are there to protect people and communities. They prevent misuse, such as throwing fireworks and controlling the time which they can be used.

Legislation introduced in 2003, makes it an offence for anyone under the age of 18 to possess fireworks in public. The Fireworks Act 2003, aims to help make fireworks safer for users and tackle their deliberate misuse. It also affects how fireworks are imported and sold.

It is illegal to throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place and to cause unnecessary harm to animals. Committing these offences can mean you will be fined up to £5,000, serve up to six months in prison, or both. On-the-spot fines of up to £80 can also be issued to those causing a nuisance.

Did you know a 'rocket' can travel at speeds of up to 150mph?

Dos and don'ts

- Do ensure that anyone using fireworks (including sparklers) are over the age 16.
- Do ensure that any firework display you are planning finishes prior to 11pm unless on permitted firework nights.
- Do purchase fireworks from shops with a licence to sell them.
- Don't throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place.
- Don't cause any unnecessary suffering to animals.

Make sure you know what you're buying!
All fireworks sold in the UK are categorised based on their size.

Category 1: Indoor fireworks

- Specifically made for indoor use

Category 2: Garden fireworks

- Must be viewed at from a minimum of five metres
- All category 2 fireworks are classed as 'adult' fireworks
- Some sparklers are category 2 fireworks

Category 3: Display fireworks

- Must be viewed at a minimum of 25 metres
- All category 3 fireworks are classed as 'adult' fireworks

Category 4: Professional display

- It is an offence for the public to be in possession of these fireworks

You must be over the age of 18 to buy fireworks including some sparklers. Category 1 fireworks such as caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers and throwdowns, must not be supplied to anyone under the age of 16.



Did you know a sparkler can burn at temperatures nearing 2,000°C?



Did you know, fireworks can reach heights of 200 metres?


Curfew time

Curfews on the use of fireworks are in place to ensure the least amount of nuisance to others is caused. It is an offence for anyone to use what are classed as 'adult' fireworks between 11pm and 7am except on the permitted firework nights where the length of time in the evening is extended:

- **Guy Fawkes' night** (5 November) - Midnight to 7am
- **Diwali** – 1am to 7am
- **New Year's Eve** (31 December) – 1am to 7am
- **Chinese New Year** – 1am to 7am



Did you know fireworks were first made in China in the 800s by exploding bamboo shoots filled with gunpowder?



To report your concerns with firework misuse, contact Hampshire Constabulary on **0845 045 45 45** or call the police non emergency number, **101**. In an emergency always call **999**.