

Fireworks Buy

Simple guide to buying fireworks

If you are new to fireworks and don't really know what you are looking for then don't worry. Here is a simple guide to help you along the way. Whether you are simply looking for a few fireworks for the back garden, a wedding display or a big public event, this guide will help you plan everything you need.

What kind of display are you looking for?

There are generally two types of firework displays in the UK. Consumer or DIY displays are where you purchase your own fireworks and create your own display. This is what the majority of the population tend to do. Professional fireworks are supplied by a licensed display company who also set them up, fire them and clear them up. Those are most suited to weddings, corporate events and big public displays.

Learn about the different types of fireworks

If you have decided that you want to construct and fire your own display then do a little homework and find out what the main firework types are. These are some of the main types of fireworks on sale in the UK:

- Selection Boxes & Sparklers
- Rockets
- Roman Candles
- Fountains and Mines
- Catherine Wheels
- Shot Cakes
- Lanterns
- Single Ignition Display Units

A number of fireworks are frequently asked about but are now banned. Some of these products are Bangers, Chinese Crackers & Aerial Shells.

Buy Fireworks!

Once you have worked out exactly what you need for your display you are now ready to purchase some fireworks. Whether you are buying consumer fireworks or using a professional service, hopefully you should now have better understanding of what to look for when seeking advice from a professional fireworks company.

Firework Classification

- Fireworks are broken down into four different categories - category 1, 2, 3 and 4. Typically you will find that Category 2 and Category 3 fireworks are the ones on sale to the general public in fireworks shops. Depending on how much of a safety distance a firework requires will depend on its designated category.
- Category 1 refers to indoor fireworks and those which pose a minimal hazard.
- Category 2 fireworks are also known as garden fireworks. These require the shortest distance which is 5 metres. New laws however have coming into force which mean that you will see an increasing number of fireworks classified to new EU/EN standards and the safety distance will change to 8 metres.
- Category 3 fireworks are also known as display fireworks. This classification of firework requires the greatest distance which is 25 metres. However there are also changes being made in this category also and some products may come with a safety distance of 15 metres.
- Category 4 fireworks are those for professional use only. These include aerial shells and other items that are banned for sale to the public.

In years to come you will start to see fireworks which carry the CE marking. This is because new legislation came into force in 2010. Fireworks already imported before this date are exempt from the new laws and can be sold until 2017.

When can I light and use fireworks?

The Fireworks Regulations 2004 prohibit anyone under 18 from using or possessing fireworks. These regulations also prohibit the use of fireworks at night from the hours of 11pm-7am in England and Wales, with extensions for the following days and celebrations:

- Until 1am following the first day of Chinese New Year
- On November 5th until 12am
- Until 1am on the day following Diwali day
- Until 1am on the day following the 31st December

These regulations are to be enforced by the police and there is a penalty for breach of any curfew. Penalties can be up to a £5000 fine and or six months imprisonment.