

# Fireworks: the law

You cannot buy ‘adult’ fireworks if you’re under 18, and it’s against the law for anyone to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on certain occasions.

Adult fireworks are category 2 and 3 fireworks - they do not include things like party poppers.

 **Category 4 fireworks can only be used by professionals.**

The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.

You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for:

- Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight
- New Year’s Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am

Check with [your council](#) to find out about any local rules for setting off fireworks.


Get information about firework safety from [The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents](#) and the [Health and Safety Executive](#).

## Buying fireworks

You can only buy fireworks (including sparklers) from registered sellers for private use on these dates:

- 15 October to 10 November
- 26 to 31 December
- 3 days before Diwali and Chinese New Year

At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops.

 **You can be fined an unlimited amount and imprisoned for up to 6 months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.**