



## CHILDREN AND FIREWORKS SAFETY



Fireworks are fascinating to children, though some may not like their loud booms. Following are some simple fireworks safety tips to help the whole family stay safe and have fun.

### Are Fireworks Safe for Kids?

Many fireworks that are thought to be safe for kids, like sparklers, can still reach temperatures about 1000 degrees Fahrenheit. Anyone holding or standing near sparklers can easily be burned. The bottom line is: there are no safe fireworks for kids to handle.



### Firework Safety Tips

If fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, follow these simple safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Do not allow children to play with or light fireworks. This is an adult only task.
- Keep a bucket of water near where fireworks are being used, in case of a fire or mishap.
- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place.
- An adult should read all the warnings and instructions before using any fireworks.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Fireworks should be lit on a smooth, flat surface away from the house or any other building, and not near dry leaves or other flammable materials.
- All people should be out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Steer clear of others — fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- If a firework does not ignite, do not try to relight it. Submerge it in water, then properly dispose of it.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed by fireworks. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.

The best advice is to take your kids to see a professional fireworks display rather than using fireworks at home. The show is sure to be safer and much more spectacular.

