



# The Dos and Don'ts of Fireworks Safety

**DO** check any safety guidelines and warnings on the wrapper of the fireworks before lighting them.

**DON'T** buy fireworks from just anyone. You want to ensure you are purchasing them from a reputable retailer of legal fireworks.

**DO** remember not to light fireworks near people, trees, homes, or any combustible materials.

**DON'T** shoot fireworks off in windy conditions. Otherwise, make sure the prevailing wind is blowing away from the audience.

**DO** keep a fire extinguisher or water hose nearby in the event of a fire. The National Fire Prevention Association notes that the Fourth of July features more reported fires than any other day of the year.

**DON'T** let small children handle or light fireworks.

**DO** make sure spectators keep their distance. They should be 25 to 40 feet away from ground-based items and even further for aerial products.

**DON'T** forget that sparklers and firecrackers are no safer than other types of fireworks. The tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1200 F, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns and is hotter than the temperature it takes to melt glass.

**DO** wait 15 to 20 minutes after lighting a firework to see if it has ignited. If not, dump the firework in a bucket of water and move on to a fresh firework.

**DON'T** shoot fireworks off of uneven ground. To ensure stability, always light them on a hard, flat and level surface.

**DO** make sure that no part of your body over the firework when lighting it. Use a punk or long butane lighter to keep as far away as possible.

**DON'T** overindulge in alcoholic beverages when lighting fireworks. Your perception and dexterity can be compromised by alcohol.



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