



# Fireworks Safety Tips

The State of Georgia permits the purchase and use of consumer fireworks, which include everything sold in Georgia retail stores - from bottle rockets to firecrackers and sparklers.

Fireworks can be used any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11:59 p.m., unless prohibited by local noise ordinances. On January 1; the last Saturday and Sunday in May; July 3; July 4; the first Monday in September; and December 31 of each year, fire works can be used 10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Additionally, fireworks can be used from midnight to 1 a.m. on January 1.

State law bans the use of fireworks on roads and highways and within 100 yards of a hospital, nursing home or gas station. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources prohibits the use of fireworks in state parks.

Here are some tips for safely handling fireworks:

- Read cautionary labels, directions and performance descriptions before igniting fireworks
- Assign a responsible adult to supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children
- Do not light fireworks while consuming alcohol
- Wear safety glasses when igniting fireworks
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away
- Light fireworks outside on a flat, stable, fire-proof surface; away from buildings, vehicles and flammable materials
- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak duds in a bucket of water
- Keep a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks
- Soak spent fireworks in water and dispose of them in a metal trash can
- Don't wear bulky, loose fitting clothing that could easily catch fire
- Light fireworks using a long-tipped lighter or sawdust covered bamboo sticks called punks, which are designed to keep your hands several inches away from the fuse