Fireworks – **Shopgoods fireworks**

07.02.02

Safe use of shopgoods fireworks >

This information bulletin provides guidance on the purchase, use and storage of shopgoods fireworks.

What are shopgoods fireworks?

Shopgoods fireworks are fireworks with a “gunpowder” content of 100 grams or less that are suitable for use by a member of the public over the age of 18 years.

Shopgoods fireworks are all tested to ensure that they can be used safely if handled responsibly and in accordance with the directions supplied. They are, however, explosive articles with the potential to start fires and cause injury, therefore care should be taken and children must be supervised when using them.

Purchase of fireworks

In the Northern Territory the public may buy shopgoods fireworks on dates to be advised each year between 9:00am and 9:00pm (or as otherwise specified by a Government Minister by proclamation).

Persons of 18 years of age and over may buy shopgoods fireworks at these times.

During the rest of the year a Permit to Conduct a Fireworks Display (obtainable from NT WorkSafe) must be held before you may purchase or use shopgoods fireworks. It is an offence to possess fireworks outside Territory Day – 1 July without a permit.

As it is illegal to possess shopgood fireworks in any amount without a permit other than on 1st July for Territory Day celebrations, it is recommended that members of the public only purchase quantities they are able to ignite during the approved Government gazetted times.

Use of fireworks

Shopgoods fireworks may only be ignited on July 1 between 6:00pm and 11:00pm, or as otherwise proclaimed in the Government Gazette or specified in a Permit to Conduct a Fireworks Display.

The instructions supplied with the fireworks must be read and followed.

The type of fireworks should be considered when choosing a place to use them - eg. fireworks that shoot flaming balls out should not be used in a small yard or near trees. The use of fireworks in such a manner – that injury or damage occurs – is an offence under the *Dangerous Goods Act*.

The preferred method of lighting shopgoods fireworks is with ordinary matches. Incense/joss sticks or gas cigarette lighters may become too hot for safe use.

Clothing that is not easily flammable should be worn by those lighting fireworks. It is also recommended that eye protection such as sunglasses (during daylight hours) or safety glasses be worn.

The fuse of most shopgoods fireworks should take between 5 and 10 seconds to ignite the firework.

Misfires (duds) should be left alone for a few minutes in case the fuse is still burning slowly. They should be picked up wearing leather gloves and safety glasses and then soaked in a bucket of water overnight before disposing of them. Do not burn duds as some fireworks may explode in a fire.

Storage

Fireworks should be kept in a closed container such as a wooden box, solid sided plastic crate or strong cardboard carton.

Fireworks must not be kept near other dangerous goods eg. petrol, ammunition, pool chemicals etc. Avoid keeping matches or lighters in the same box as fireworks.

Children should not have access to the fireworks during storage, and should not ignite fireworks unless closely supervised.

Apart from the fireworks taken out of their box in readiness for use, all other fireworks should be kept in their closed container a safe distance from the point of ignition. Please do not keep them in pockets in your clothing as this has resulted in serious injuries.

All fireworks should be used on the night of July 1 between the prescribed hours. It is an offence to possess fireworks outside of Territory Day without a permit.

It is unsafe to keep fireworks over a long period of time, as they may become unstable. If proved that unstable fireworks are responsible for damage to your property, you may find your house and contents insurance void.

NT WorkSafe >

GPO Box 1722

Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: 1800 019 115
Facsimile: (08) 8999 5141
Email: ntworksafe@nt.gov.au
Website: worksafe.nt.gov.au