

In the build up to 5th November, the pressure is on to create the best firework display. With 78% of firework displays at home in 2008 considered a flop; don't make the same mistake for 2009. For an enviable firework display this year, seek expert advice from the 1st Galaxy Team – one the UK's leading firework specialists. All you need to know about what to buy and how to buy is here, so you can have the best night ever!

1st Galaxy are one of the few suppliers of display and garden fireworks that are each labelled with performance indicators. Each label provides information about the expected duration and height of the firework, and the colour effects. This will enable you to tailor your display to suit your event whether it is in your garden, a field or a small patio area.

However, there are 2 basic things to consider before purchasing fireworks for a home display to ensure safety and consideration for your audience:

1 - How large is the area for the firework display?

It is important for garden displays that you allow at least 5 metres between the display and your audience. 25 metres if a larger crowd is expected with display sized fireworks.

Consider overhanging trees in the planned display area, also high fences and children's play equipment that may collide with the fireworks.

Please think about the firework debris, i.e. rocket sticks and burning embers, and make sure there is a clear area behind the firing site for debris to fall to the ground safely.

Also ensure that you have a dry flat surface or a bucket of sand to fire your fireworks from, following the instruction label to prevent a lit firework from toppling over.

Perfect small garden fireworks include 48 Shot Colour Pearl Cake, Shuttle Rocket Packs, Candle Packs and the great range of Fountains 1st Galaxy have in store.

For larger 'self fire' displays where a 25 metre distance is required, ideal fireworks include the Vulcan Sun, Britannia Rocket Volley, Big Nobby, Blockbuster and Royal Display Cakes.

2 - Are there any children or pet animals in attendance?

Some younger children and pets tend not to like the loud noises that most fireworks can generate. If you have any small children or pets at the display, or in the area then consider using low noise fireworks, which visually provide amazing colour effects, but without the booms, bangs and zooms!

Consider organising your display where children and pets can watch from indoors. Watching fireworks through windows is just as exciting for a small child!

Perfect fireworks to choose from with low/no-noise, but with plenty of colour and fantastic and great effects include Pulsar Cakes, Colour Aurora, Little Willy Rockets and Conic Fountains (as well as the well-loved Sparkler!)

When buying your fireworks from 1st Galaxy always use the Performance Indicators to help you select what is most appropriate for the space you have and your audience. As additional help and guidance, each of the 7 pop-up shops in the Midlands has two zones to select your fireworks from:

1. Pink Zone - are fireworks suitable for small areas with at least 5 metre distance and low noise.
2. Yellow Zone - are fireworks for larger events from 25 metre distance and no height restrictions.

As well as allocated zones to make shopping for fireworks simpler, each 1st Galaxy member of staff has been specially trained on the collection of fireworks available. Each team member can provide additional 'how to buy' guidance, recommend fireworks for your specific occasion and advise on safety rules and regulations.



For a perfect firework display, as well as considering where your display will be held and who will be attending, you also need to consider the selection of fireworks you are going to choose for your display. Don't be swayed by 'bigger is best', or head straight for the rocket collection - think of the array of colours, effects, height, noises there are – and choose a varied selection.

Different firework styles include, Fountains, Rockets, Candles, Shot cakes, Barrages, Wheels, Sparklers in all shapes and sizes. If finding the perfect combination is too difficult, then you can guarantee audience satisfaction with 1st Galaxy's NEW party bags for 2009. All fireworks have been hand-selected to ensure that whichever party bag selection you choose –it will certainly be a crowd pleaser! Choose from:

£11 for a selection of 12 fireworks - £22 for a selection of 19 fireworks - £44 for a selection of 32 fireworks

Now for the important bit! The Safety of you and your fireworks – the day before your display:

1. Make sure that all fireworks are separated from the packaging and remember that fireworks are delicate and should be treated as such
2. Ensure that you familiarise yourself with all the fireworks and their respective performance and effect
3. Read all the instruction labels on each firework and having done this, store the fireworks in a suitable box or container in a cool dry place, away from any sources of ignition.

The Safety of you and your fireworks – ON the day of your display:

1. If the fireworks have been positioned before the display, they should be protected from sparks and rain with foil, metal tape, or polythene
2. Ensure that all persons firing the display are familiar with the firing order and know exactly which firework they are responsible for lighting
3. Torches should be used to check instructions where necessary
4. Wear the appropriate protective clothing, i.e. Safety Goggles, Ear Plugs, Gloves and non-flammable clothing
5. Always light fireworks at arms' length using a port-fire (for extra safety you can attach the port-fire to a longer stick/pole)
6. Keep set pieces at least 10ft apart to avoid cross ignition
7. Should any firework fail to ignite. DO NOT APPROACH FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES after the display has finished and then douse in water or dry powder and leave for 24 hours where possible
8. Never aim fireworks across or over spectators, always aim away from the crowd
9. When firing rockets, consider where the sticks will land, as they will automatically track into the wind
10. Keep all spare fireworks covered
11. Ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the display area
12. Never leave any fireworks unattended
13. Children must be kept under adult supervision and not allowed in the display area
14. No persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs should be involved in the handling or firing of fireworks

1st Galaxy Fireworks is a fireworks display company specialising in wedding, corporate firework shows and managed fireworks events. Our professional firework display team is available to design and organise your wedding or corporate display. Or, if you want to organise your own fireworks party, our experienced fireworks designers have selected the best fireworks for every the occasion.

Fireworks are available on www.galaxy-fireworks.co.uk or through email at sales@galaxy-fireworks.co.uk. You can also call 01623 792121, or visit our pop-up shops at Canal Street and Valley Road Nottingham, Bath Street Ilkeston, North Street Grantham, Sheffield Road Chesterfield, Matlock Bath and the HQ store in Ravenshead, Nottingham.

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