



Ohio's New Fireworks Law for the Fire Service

Yes – Ohioans can legally discharge fireworks in Ohio on designated days UNLESS the political subdivision (village, city, or township) chooses to opt out or implement more restrictions.

Beginning July 1, 2022, Ohio residents (and nonresidents) can discharge consumer grade fireworks in Ohio either on their own property or on another person's property with permission EXCEPT where a political subdivision has chosen to opt out, meaning they will not allow people to discharge consumer grade fireworks. The political subdivision may also choose to place additional restrictions on when a person can discharge consumer grade fireworks.

They must discharge responsibly.

No person can use fireworks while in possession or control of, or under the influence of, any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance. A person who violates this is guilty of a first-degree misdemeanor.

Can hobbyists make their own fireworks?

Prior to any hobbyist activities, Fireworks hobbyists must petition the State Fire Marshal and be granted a variance to possess explosives, pyrotechnics, or similar raw materials, or to make any fireworks. If a variance is granted, fireworks hobbyist activities must still be limited to the manufacture, possession, and use of individual items with each item meeting the definition of either a consumer-grade (1.4G) firework or a commercial-grade (1.3G) firework. A hobbyist may only possess a total of 5 pounds of explosives, pyrotechnics, or similar raw materials, at any one time.

When can Ohioans discharge fireworks?

Beginning July 1, 2022, unless limited by local laws, the following dates are when discharge of consumer fireworks is permissible under the safety conditions established in state and local law.

- New Year's Eve and Day
- Chinese New Year
- Cinco de Mayo
- Memorial Day weekend
- Juneteenth
- July 3, 4, and 5, and the Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays preceding and following
- Labor Day weekend
- Diwali



Where can Ohioans buy fireworks?

Consumers may purchase fireworks from any of the licensed sales locations throughout the state of Ohio. When purchasing fireworks, the retailer must provide buyers with safety glasses for free or at a nominal charge. Safety pamphlets must also be provided outlining the safe use of fireworks.

Retail Store and Licensure Changes:

- **Relocation**
Effective immediately, all existing fireworks store locations may be relocated to any place in the state. Any relocated license must comply with all federal state and local laws, including specific building requirements and local zoning laws. If you become aware of any planned construction of fireworks sales showroom in your jurisdiction, please contact the SFM for further guidance and carefully coordinate the construction with the building code official.
- **Retail Expansion**
After February 7, 2022, existing fireworks retail sales showrooms will be able to expand from the current standard of 5,000 square feet to 7,500 square feet. New stores can also be a maximum of 7,500 square feet in size. Any fireworks retailer showrooms that exceed 5,000 square feet must have sprinkler systems compliant with the "extra hazard group 2" under the National Fire Protection Association's sprinkler system 2019 standard. All fireworks sales showrooms must be approved by the local and state building code officials, and the State Fire Marshal.
- **New licenses**
Effective January 1, 2023, new fireworks sales licenses may be issued to any qualifying applicant for any location in the state.
- **Fountains**
Starting in mid-October 2022, fountain devices may be sold in qualifying general retail store locations when such stores obtain a fountain device retail license. All sales and use of fountain devices must comply with federal, state, and local laws and rules.

Can local government officials stop Ohioans from discharging fireworks?

As part of the new law, any political subdivision may opt-out of allowing the ability to discharge within their limits so discuss with your local officials the best course of action for your jurisdiction.

The State Fire Marshal must promulgate rules related to the new fireworks law. A fireworks rule development committee is being assembled and must compile recommendations for these new rules by May 12, 2022. For input into these rules, it is recommended that you contact the committee's fire service representatives selected by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

The State Fire Marshal is part of the Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio's chief regulatory agency. The Department is focused on promoting prosperity and protecting what matters most to Ohioans. We ensure businesses follow the laws that help them create jobs and keep Ohioans safe. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at com.ohio.gov