

**Smokes and punks**

Used to light fireworks. Very similar to incense. Can burn for 15 to 20 minutes.

**Fountains**

Most legal fireworks available in Pennsylvania are in this category. Fountains emit sparks as high as 30 feet, depending on the size of the actual firework. Best set off in an area far away from homes or trees.

# Shoot the works — legally

Happy Fourth! Here's a tower of power: Know your rockets and crackers, and know the laws.

**Sparklers**

One of the most recognized consumer fireworks. When lit, the small stick sparks for about 30 to 40 seconds.

**Wheels and Spinners**

Small fireworks that tend to spin and scream on the ground while emitting sparks. Best set off on concrete or asphalt far away from homes or plants.

This time of year the familiar pop of fireworks can be heard all over town. With major chains such as Kmart and Target selling fireworks, many people assume that they are legal everywhere. Fireworks laws vary widely from state to state.

In this region, all the fireworks shown here are legal to purchase and to use in Pennsylvania, but are illegal in New Jersey and Delaware. Even punks, used to light fireworks safely, are illegal in those states. Here's to safety first on the Fourth.

**Legal Fireworks**

While all consumer fireworks are illegal in New Jersey and Delaware without a permit, some are allowed in Pennsylvania. Here is a breakdown of which fireworks are allowed in Pennsylvania.

Firework	Pa. law
Bottle Rockets	Permit required
Sky Rockets	Permit required
Roman Candles	Permit required
Firecrackers	Permit required
Sparklers	Allowed
Smokes and punks	Allowed
Fountains	Allowed
Missiles	Permit required
Novelties	Allowed
Crackling and Strobging	Allowed
Parachutes	Permit required
Wheels and Spinners	Allowed
Sky Flyers	Permit required
Display Shells	Permit required
Aerial Items	Permit required

**Safety Tips**

- Always read and follow label directions carefully.
- Always have an adult present.
- Only ignite fireworks outdoors, in an open area.
- Always have water on hand.
- Never attempt to manipulate or make your own fireworks.
- Only light one at a time.
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Do not give fireworks to small children.
- Always store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Never throw fireworks at another person.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Do not ignite fireworks in metal or glass containers.

**Novelties**

Generally small fireworks such as pop-its, snakes or smoke bombs.

**Crackling and Strobging**

Emit sparks and flashing lights, sometimes accompanied by squealing.

BETO ALVAREZ and NICK BASHAM / Inquirer Staff Artists

SOURCES: American Pyrotechnics Association; Fireworks.com

**Inside**

## Summertime, and the reading is ...

... eclectic. Area writers and booksellers list their warm-weather picks. **E2.**



iStockphoto