

MICHIGAN FIREWORKS LAWS

Michigan is restrictive in what fireworks are allowed to be sold, purchased, used or transported. The following information can be used as a guide to help insure any fireworks you purchase or use are in compliance with the Michigan Fireworks Law (Michigan Penal Code, Act 328 or 1931, as amended, MCL 750.243a - 750.243e).

Fireworks means a device made from explosive or flammable compositions used primarily for the purpose of producing a visible display or audible effect, or both, by combustion, deflagration, or detonation.

It is illegal to sell, possess, transport, or use fireworks in Michigan without a permit.

Exceptions are listed below;

LEGAL FIREWORKS (NO PERMIT REQUIRED)

- **Flat Paper Caps**
- **Toy Trick Noise Makers** (party poppers, pop-its, fun snaps, toy pistols using flat paper caps, etc.)
- **Sparklers**
- **Flitter Sparklers** (a narrow paper tube attached to a thin wooden handle producing a shower of sparks)
- **Fountains** that are cone shaped or cylindrical shaped that emit a shower of sparks and sometimes a whistle effect
- **Toy Snakes** (a pressed pellet that produces a large snake like ash upon burning)
- **Toy Smoke Devices** (smoke bombs, smoke pots, smoke grenades, smoke balls, etc. that produce white or colored smoke)
- **Signal flares**, blank cartridges or blank cartridge pistols and railroad emergency signal devices
- The sale of fireworks provided they are to be shipped directly out of state (dealers selling fireworks in Michigan using signed statements that the purchaser will use the fireworks out of state is prohibited)
- ***Fireworks which do not fit among the above exemptions are illegal for sale, use or transportation without a permit.*** Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor (MCL 750.243e).

HELPFUL HINT: If it makes a loud bang or leaves the ground, spins or twirls, it is illegal in Michigan.

Below are some examples of ***illegal*** fireworks in Michigan;

- **Cherry Bomb:** Looks like a small red sphere approximately 1" in diameter
- **Comet (or mine):** A cylinder containing a star and attached to a wooden base. Upon ignition the star is thrust 50-100 feet in the air and continues to glow as it slowly falls to the ground
- **Firecracker:** A little noise making cylinder up to 1.5" in length, often strung together by fuse
- **M-80:** Up to 2" in length, the M-80 is usually a red cylinder with a fuse coming out of the side
- **Bottle Rockets:** A cylinder, frequently topped by a cone to stabilize flight, attached to a long stick
- **Roman Candles:** a 6-12" tube containing alternating layers of compacted black powder that shoot single stars out of the top when lighted
- **Silver Salute (M-100):** A silver cylinder with a fuse coming out of the side containing large quantities of flash powder
- **M-250 and M-1000 (quarter stick):** They look like larger versions of the M-80 and M-100 and have extremely high risk factors for crippling and disfiguring injuries
- **Torch:** A 6-12" tube filled with color composition and ending in a handle. When ignited, streams of colors come out of the top of the tube
- *A firework that spins or twirls* is a "wheel" and thus is neither a "cylindrical fountain" nor a "cone fountain". The sale, offer for sale, use or possession of these "wheel" type devices is prohibited in Michigan.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks this holiday is to watch a professional display. Follow this link to <http://michiganfireworks.com> to view a list of displays scheduled in your Michigan area.

If you have further questions about fireworks, contact our administrative office at (248) 524-3419, and ask one of our fire inspectors.

Additional information on fireworks can be found on-line at <http://www.fireworkssafety.org/>