

Michigan's fireworks laws: What to know on Memorial Day and beyond

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Memorial Day is on the horizon, marking the unofficial start of the summer season.

As people host barbecues and pool parties to celebrate, personal firework shows are sure to be heard throughout the neighborhood.

Before lighting up the night, there are new laws to keep in mind. In December, new measures were signed into law (<https://fox17online.com/2019/01/08/fireworks-reform-for-michigan-in-2019/>) that reduce the number of days fireworks can be used, give local government more power to regulate the devices and tighten consumer sales and use.

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The 2018 Ford Fireworks on the Detroit River in downtown Detroit on June 25, 2018. (Photo: Mary Schroeder, Detroit Free Press)

Read more: [Dog kennel designed by Ford blocks fireworks, thunder noise \(/story/money/cars/2018/12/18/how-help-dogs-fireworks-ford/2346838002/\)](/story/money/cars/2018/12/18/how-help-dogs-fireworks-ford/2346838002/)

Rep. Jim Lilly, R-Park Township, sponsored two of the three new bills passed. (<https://www.mlive.com/news/2018/12/fewer-days-for-legal-fireworks-under-house-passed-bills.html>) They were put into place after communities statewide complained about residents' property damage and fireworks being shot off at all hours, scaring children and pets.

Here are the new laws, as well as a refresher on the fireworks process in Michigan (https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_42271_59975---,00.html):

What types of fireworks are legal in Michigan?

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/05/14/faq-michigan-fireworks-laws-memorial-d...> 6/27/2019

- Roman candles
- Bottle rockets
- Missile type rockets
- Aerials
- Reloadable shell devices
- Firecrackers
- Helicopter/aerial spinners
- Single tube device with report

Novelty items

- Sparklers
- Snaps
- Poppers
- Snakes

Low impact fireworks

- Ground sparking devices
- Ground-based or handheld sparklers
- Ground sparking devices
- Smoke devices

Display Fireworks

- Public fireworks shows organized by professionals

When can I shoot off fireworks?

The new law, House Bill 5939, has significantly reduced the number of days one can shoot off unrestricted fireworks, from 30 to 12.

(<https://www.mlive.com/news/2018/12/fewer-days-for-legal-fireworks-under-house-passed-bills.html>) Previous legislature stated that a local government can enact an ordinance to regulate the use of consumer fireworks (<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/billanalysis/House/htm/2017-HLA-5939-7662F7C0.htm>) on the day of, or the days before and after a national holiday. Exceptions are made for larger cities or larger cities and towns in larger counties, between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. on New Year's Day. Smaller cities can regulate fireworks displays between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m.

However, the bill states that local governments cannot regulate consumer fireworks on the following dates:

- Dec. 31 until 1 a.m. on Jan. 1
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

Those who violate the ordinance created by a community will receive a fine of \$1,000 for each offense. The ordinance must provide for the remittance of \$500 of the fine collected under the ordinance to the local law enforcement agency responsible for enforcement.

More: [Fireworks could be limited to 12 days under bill headed to Snyder \(/story/news/politics/2018/12/20/locals-could-limit-fireworks-under-michigan-bill/2368946002/\)](#)

More: [Royal Oak ready to place strictest limits on fireworks \(/story/news/local/michigan/oakland/2019/01/28/royal-oak-fireworks/2704192002/\)](#)

Can I display fireworks anywhere?

No, a person cannot light fireworks on public property, such as schools, churches, or the property of another person without their permission. Those who violate the law can pay a fine as much as \$500.

Can anyone sell fireworks?

According to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), a person cannot sell consumer fireworks unless they have a fireworks certificate. Applications can be completed online and must be submitted by April 1 for the upcoming fireworks season.

The certificate is valid until April 30 of the following year.

What if I sell fireworks in a temporary space?

Under a new law that takes effect on Aug. 1, local governments with a population of 100,000 people or more or a local government located in a county with a population of 750,000 or more will have the authority to regulate temporary structures, such as tents or stands. This can include a restriction on the number of permits issued for a temporary structure, regulation of the distance required between two or more temporary structures, or a zoning ordinance.

Can fireworks be banned?

Yes, but only under weather conditions. The governor, the state fire marshal or the head of the Department of Natural Resources can ban fireworks use in a county because of dry conditions. In addition, local fire chiefs have the authority to impose burn bans in their jurisdictions if the DNR has issued a fire risk criteria to "very high" for 72 hours.

Can I still operate fireworks while drinking alcohol?

A person is prohibited from using fireworks while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two. A \$1,000 fine may be issued for those who violate the law.

For more information on fireworks regulations, go to [michigan.gov/lara](https://www.michigan.gov/lara). (<https://www.michigan.gov/lara>)

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