



Go Out With A Bang!

Whether you want to make a sparkling entrance or an eye-catching post-reception display, fireworks are a great way to add some extra pizzazz to your special day. Here, Bhria Vellnagel interviews Steve Lawrence, pyrotechnician at Geelong Fireworks, to discover all the details of how to include fireworks and other special effects at your wedding.

Nothing announces a marriage to the world quite like a massive eruption of fireworks on the horizon. That being said, if you don't have the open space to accommodate such a grand display, there are an abundance of alternative options to choose from, such as low-noise and electronic fireworks, fog machines, and even the simple yet effective sparkler.

For A Limited Time Only

While organising a pyrotechnician for your wedding day may sound expensive, Lawrence says "many couples don't realise just how cost-effective fireworks and special effects can be". However, if you're looking to make a great impression that your guests won't forget anytime soon, then it's worth investing a little extra to ensure the best result is achieved. "Our outdoor displays can be completely choreographed for an extra cost," he says.

When planning what style of fireworks you want, it's important to keep in mind that large outdoor displays will need to be done when it's dark out, which can be as late as 10pm in the summertime. This may mean leaving any outdoor presentations for the final moments of your reception. If you've hired a classic car to drive you away, then why not make it an even grander farewell by incorporating details such as spinning wheels, beautiful flaming hearts, a 'Just Married' fire writing display, or other styles of fireworks along the driveway.

Let's not forget about the humble sparkler, which is an impactful yet highly affordable way to get your guests involved in your celebrations. By handing out sparklers after the reception, you can have all your closest friends and family light the way to the ultimate exit! You could even incorporate them into an outdoor photo shoot for a fun yet romantic look.

Even if you're restricted to daylight hours there are plenty of products that could suit your needs. The team at Geelong Pyrotechnics are well versed in creating displays for an array of circumstances; "we are constantly working with our suppliers to get the latest and greatest products," Lawrence says.

For those without outdoor space available, indoor fireworks are also an option, with fountains, waterfalls, and cake sparklers particularly excellent choices. "Our electronic fireworks produce the silver fountain effect, and look exactly like normal silver fountains," Lawrence explains. For your first dance, he advises against coloured options as they create a lot of smoke; instead, consider opting for the electronic version, or elegant silver or gold fountains.

Restricted Access

While indoor options can be administered at any time, there may be restrictions on the types of pyrotechnics you can include depending on the venue. For indoor fireworks, Lawrence advises that prior notification must be given to the local council, WorkSafe, and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) or Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MMFB).

For outdoor pyrotechnics, the restrictions are quite similar, but there are a few additional hoops to jump through. "Let the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) know if aircrafts are involved, and possibly Parks Victoria, as well as sending notifications to residents up to 1.5km away," Lawrence advises. "Geelong Fireworks can take care of all of this communication for you."

When booking with your pyrotechnician, it's vital to ensure that all of their qualifications are in order; they'll need to hold a license from WorkSafe Victoria and have specific fireworks insurance. This is one part of your wedding which can't be done by anyone other than an experienced professional, as the safety of you and your guests is paramount.

Complementary Combinations

Combining your fireworks with other special effects like fog and coloured smoke can create a unique and visually stunning result for your wedding photography. Lawrence highlights that, alongside the diverse range of pyrotechnic offerings available, Geelong Fireworks can also supply a range of other exciting products. "We have confetti blasters, handheld CO₂ guns,

CO₂ jets that shoot fog streams of up to eight metres with intense LED lighting, and propane gas flames over a metre wide," he says.

For couples on a budget, Lawrence suggests incorporating some simple shimmery fountains and low-level fog for your first dance. "The first dance is the most important moment of your reception, indoor fireworks and fog make for a beautiful look and always get a wonderful reaction from guests," he explains.

Many couples also choose to make a spectacle of the classic cake-cutting moment by incorporating small firework fountains next to, or around, the cake. Deciding to highlight the cutting of your wedding cake in this manner makes for fantastic photography, and is also a perfect way to draw attention to the time-honoured tradition. "We can even incorporate our mini fog systems to give your cake that beautiful 'fire and ice' look," Lawrence says. Geelong Fireworks also offer fog curtains, which could allow you to make a grand entrance to your reception through a wall of fog. Lawrence also suggests coloured smoke and bubbles, which can be scented or fog-filled, as another unique addition, perfect for your wedding photos.

With so many options available for both indoor and outdoor fireworks, and with numerous special effects to accompany them, it's easy to make a spectacular statement at your wedding. Whether you opt for an elegant combination of fog and fire during your first dance, or simply want to put on an outstanding outdoor show for the perfect end to your big day, there are countless ways to incorporate pyrotechnics into your wedding day regardless of your budget or venue.