

## **How Your Clients Can Reduce The Risk Of A Thatch Fire This Winter**

Every thatch home is unique. At the same time, owning such a unique property comes with a greater risk of a thatch roof fire. This is particularly true during the winter season as the winter nights become colder, many people will be turning to their fireplaces to keep warm.

### **The Winter Risks Of Thatch Roof Fires**

Most thatched properties have woodfire chimneys as their main source of heating. Perhaps unsurprisingly then, the most common cause of thatch roof fires comes from the embers and sparks around these chimneys. A fire at a thatched roof property can be almost impossible to control, and often with devastating consequences. Thatched roofs are designed to shed water which makes it notoriously difficult to put out a fire once it's started. With this in mind, the best countermeasure is to prevent fires from the offset.

### **Tips To Reduce The Risk Of A Fire**

- Burn only seasoned or kiln-dried wood. Avoid anything with a moisture level over 20%.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for wood burner ventilation and recommended conditions.
- Sweep your chimney regularly, and have it inspected by a certified professional! Do this both at the start and during the burning season.
- Remove spark arrestors. Instead, consider using a bird guard.
- Take care when lighting fires. Avoid using paper and card as these materials can be unpredictable. Consider firelighters instead.
- Carry out CCTV inspections to identify areas of concern in your chimney. In a damaged chimney structure, there could be gaps that allow embers to pass through to the thatch.
- Keep wood-burner baffles clean.
- Make sure the top of your chimney is a good height above the thatch. Remember, the higher the better! The height of your chimney will have an impact on the dispersal of embers away from the roof.
- All normal fire-safety precautions must also apply to your thatched property, such as the safe use of electrical items.
- Avoid improper sizing of your thatched roof.
- Avoid periods of long burning, or smouldering fires.

### **Take Out Suitable Thatched Property Insurance**

A thatched property is not only expensive to build, but also to repair and maintain. Due to this, it's highly recommended that your clients take out a specialist Thatched Property Insurance policy that's tailored to their needs.

## **Specialist Thatched Home Insurance**

Our Thatched Property Insurance team excel in finding excellent levels of cover for all thatched properties, with a specialist in-house claims team for when they need support the most. We'll take the time to get to know you and your home before using our experience, market knowledge and reputation to provide insurance as individual as your home.

### **Contact our agency team**

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