

Your Thatched Home



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

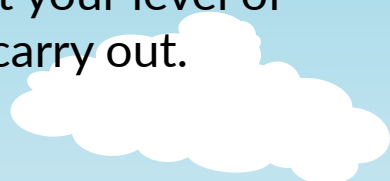
Thatched living



Living in a thatched property doesn't mean you are any more at risk from fire, but it does mean you need to consider your fire safety and maintain your home to prevent fire.

Although thatch fires are not common, over 90% of thatch roof fires start as a result of a faulty flue or chimney. The thatch is designed to repel water which makes extinguishing these fires difficult.

Always check with your insurance provider about your level of cover and what precautions they require you to carry out.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Once a fire starts in a thatched roof
it is almost impossible to control



Maintain your home

Your chimney

Old or poorly maintained chimneys can deteriorate to the point where smoke and hot gases can escape from the chimney into the upper rooms, the roof space or directly into the thatch.

- Ensure any alterations, construction, electric or gas work to your property is carried out by a registered engineer
- Sweep your chimney at least twice a year - in autumn and early spring
- Keep your chimney in good working order, for example by fitting a bird guard to prevent birds from nesting and blocking the flue

Check your insurance policy for their additional requirements

Prevention is essential

Detection is nearly always too late



Maintain your home

Heating your home – open fires and wood burners

Burn seasoned or kiln-dried wood stored in a dry airy place. The moisture content of the wood should be below 20%. Check this by using a moisture sensing probe. Don't burn any other waste material, stoves aren't designed for this and it can lead to blocked chimneys or flues.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The ignition temperature of a thatch is only 220 degrees





Your maintenance checklist

- Is a working smoke alarm fitted on every level of your home?
 - Do you test your smoke alarm works once a week?
 - Have you regularly inspected your chimney or paid someone to inspect it for you?
 - Do you only burn seasoned wood?
 - Do you check all tradespeople are registered engineers and are aware of potential fire risks?
 - Do you regularly sweep your chimney?
 - Do you use fireguards with open fires?
 - Is a bird guard fitted to prevent nests blocking your flue?
 - Have you had problems with pest control in your thatch?
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Your insurance policy

It's really important you check your level of cover with your insurance provider and ensure you are following their guidelines.

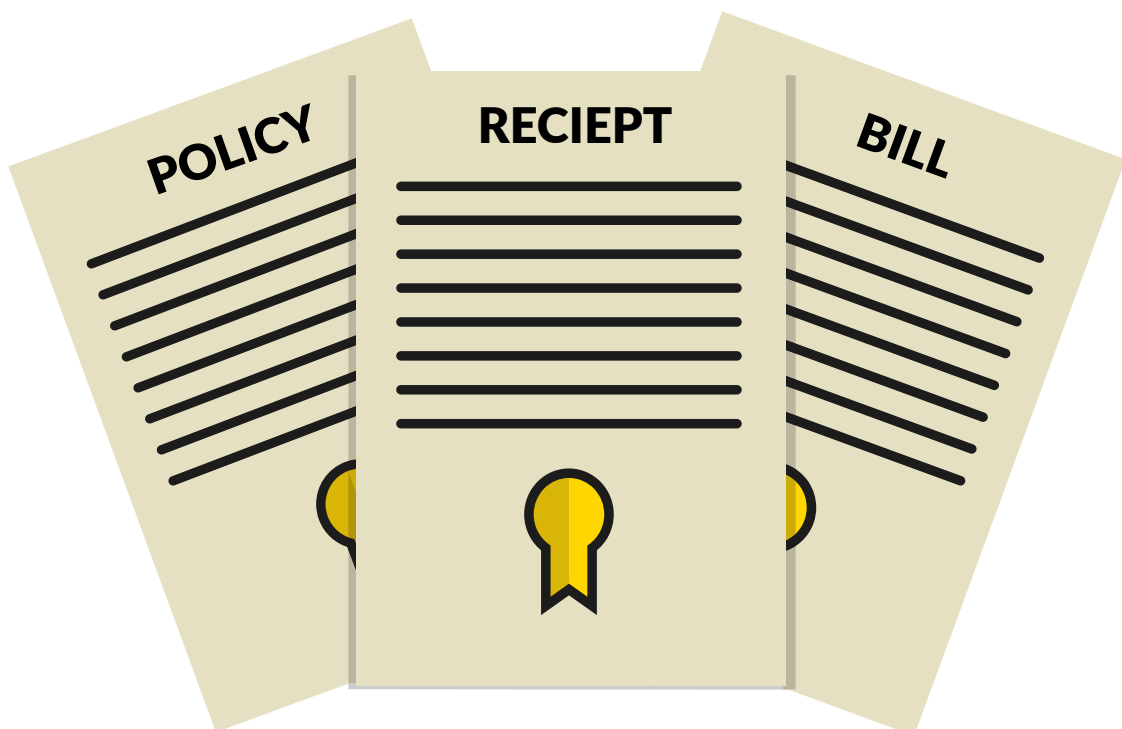
For example, some insurance providers make it part of your policy to have a garden hose on standby. Some state how often spark arrestors need to be cleaned, and what size the flue outlet should be.

Not following your policy could have devastating financial consequences.

Remember you may have two separate insurance policies with different companies, one for the building and one for contents. Ensure you check both policies and make sure any valuables are listed.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The damage from a thatch fire is nearly always going to be substantial



In the event of a fire Get out, stay out, call 999

State your full address and that you live in a thatched property. Tell our control operator about any landmarks or access issues which will help our crews.

Floor plan – Mark your gas, electric, water supply and your valuable items.



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

