



Thatch Fires.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 90% of fires in thatched properties are caused by faults in the flue or chimney. In other words, over 90% of thatched property fires are preventable.
- The financial cost of a thatch fire is considerably higher than a property of conventional construction.

DO's:

- Keep chimneys in good condition. Re-point or re-line as necessary.
- Any re-thatch or major ridge job should have all material taken from around the chimney so that it can be checked and repaired if needed.
- Smoke alarms should be fitted, low voltage mains powered linked alarms are available. Most thatch fires start in the roof space and, due to the thickness of the roof, may not be apparent for many hours.
- All electrical wiring in the loft space should ideally be routed in appropriate fire retardant ducting.
- The chimney should be swept regularly especially when burning wood.
- Spark arrestors should be fitted and maintained/cleaned on a regular basis.

DON'Ts:

- Do not build, rebuild or design chimneys which pass close to or through thatch without appropriate expert advice.
- Do not pass metal and other heat conducting flues through thatch.
- Do not hold barbecues, bonfires or firework parties close to the house and be sensible with garden fires.
- Do not allow use of blow lamps in the roof space.
- Do not allow flame stripping of paint around eaves on thatched windows.
- Do not cut recessed lighting into the ceilings below the thatch. Light fittings within the roof space should be in a bulkhead fitting.
- External floodlights should not be located just under thatch overhangs.

If you own a thatch property you can attend a 'Thatch safety presentation' at your local fire station. For more details contact/call into your local fire station.

Useful contact points and further information:

You can download a copy of our home fire safety leaflet at:

www.hantsfire.gov.uk/homesafetyinformation.pdf

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

