

Do thatched property fires occur more often than those with conventional roofs ?

Statistically, homes with thatched roofs are no more likely to catch fire than those with conventional roofs, however if they do the results are often rapid and spectacular. It seems worse, mainly because thatched fires in unprotected properties usually causes severe damage and therefore receives maximum publicity. The risk of thatch fires in old and new properties can be greatly reduced by taking sensible precautions and by utilising new specialist products to reduce the risk.

The Main Causes of Thatched Fires

Chimney related (90%)
Electrical
Lightening
Disregarded cigarettes and outside fire sources

Source: *Norwich Union Risk Services - an Aviva Company.*

Guidance Notes for Woodburners and Open Fires

- Woodburners generate a lot of heat, even up the flue. Check with your insurance company regarding your cover in relation to stoves and open fires.
- Always take professional advice on the stove and flue lining and get it installed by a reputable supplier.
- Select the smallest woodburner for the size of your room to achieve the best burning and safest solution.
- Open fires generate less heat up the chimney but flues are still recommended as professional advice.

Fuel

Do not burn wet or unseasoned wood as it will leave greater tar deposits which increase the fire hazard.