

Weather-proofing your pocket

Winter weather seems to throw everything at us – wind, rain, snow, ice and floods – and sometimes all on the same day! Avoid costly repairs and reduce the risk of winter weather damage.

So, what should ring the alarm bells as a cause of costs this winter? Our Quick tips are designed to keep you trading in bad weather and reduce the risk of financial loss to your business by carrying out some simple checks.

Door and window frames

Check for signs of damage or leakage.

Gutters

Clearing gutters prevents overflow, damp and a dangerous ice rink developing on the surface below!



Repairs

Make repairs where floors and stairways have become uneven, tiles chipped, or carpets frayed. Include handrails on stairways – when stairs are wet people tend to rely more on a sturdy handrail.

Stock

An umbrella stand near the front door encourages customers to drop off their brolly instead of carrying it around, risking damaging your stock with the wet fabric.

Floors

Keep floors dry. A welcome mat at the front door to encourage customers to wipe their feet before entering. Consider having a wet-floor sign and be ready to mop up muddy footprints. Slips and trips are regarded by some as an 'accident ATM' – a means of drawing out cash!

Burst Pipes

Freezing burst pipes is common and amongst the most expensive insurance claims made during the chilly months. Lagging on pipes and tanks should be inspected to prevent them from freezing. Keeping the heating on low, to prevent freezing, is a lot less costly than dealing with the consequences of thousands of gallons of water pouring through your premises.



Electrical installations

Require periodic testing and inspection to ensure they are safe for continued use. This can be provided by a Level 3 NVQ qualified electrician. Faulty junction boxes and other electrical equipment can lead to fires – and loss of life!

Fire Precautions

Are extinguishers correctly installed and properly maintained? If you have a sprinkler, that will need checking too. Is adequate emergency lighting installed? You should make certain that approved quality fire doors are fitted, that passageways are free from obstacles, and that emergency exits are not blocked – or locked!

Just remember: Careful planning and actions taken now could help you and your property survive and thrive – no matter what the weather throws at us!

Looking after business. Taking care of people.