

Householders urged not to cut DIY corners

Source : HSBC Home Insurance

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With more than half of UK householders planning DIY projects over the forthcoming Bank Holidays, HSBC Home Insurance is urging householders to put safety first.

52% of house proud Brits plan to keep themselves busy making home improvements, including redecorating rooms and laying new carpet, during the Bank Holidays weekends in April, May and June*.

Top ten most popular home improvement jobs over the Bank Holiday weekends in April, May and June:

(% shows amount of UK householders planning work)

1	Redecorate rooms	28%
2	Minor repairs (eg paint chips)	23%
3	Repair fences & gates	14%
4	Re-carpet rooms	7%
5	Repaint/varnish front door	5%
6	Install new bathroom	4%
7	Lay decking or patio in garden	3%
8	Install new kitchen	3%
9	Insulate loft	2%
10	Install new windows/install efficient boiler/insulate walls	1%

Research also suggests that two-thirds (64%) of people are more likely to try to cut costs by attempting DIY rather than employing a tradesman**.

Richard Brown, HSBC Head of Insurance Propositions, said: 'The squeeze on household budgets means that even more people will be having a go at DIY, either as an alternative to moving home or instead of employing a professional.'

'Insurance companies receive many claims involving DIY-related accidents. Always make sure you plan well before attempting DIY and seek professional advice if necessary. Also check that your home insurance policy covers you for accidental damage.'

HSBC Home Insurance offers the following tips to help reduce the risk of a DIY disaster:

Before starting, think about whether you have the right skills and knowledge for the job;
Check with your local council if you think you may need a permit for a large project;

Take extra care when using machinery: most power tools have safety guards but caution is necessary;

When working with heights ensure that the ladder or scaffold you are using is secure;



Use protective clothing, such as overalls, gloves and eye goggles.

Notes:

* Survey of 1369 British homeowners (aged 18+). Nationally representative sample. Carried out online 15-16th Feb 2012.

** Survey of 1971 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 18th - 20th March 2009. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

Link: www.newsroom.hsbc.co.uk/press/release/householders_urged_not_to_cut