



love your hut

Maintenance Tips For Keeping Your Hut Protected During The Year

Your hut is important to you, that's why it's important to us, so we have put together a useful checklist to reduce the risks of harm over the year and to help you protect your hut.

It's not just about insurance or reducing the risk of a claim – we've also included some practical advice on maintenance for your hut and its contents

Spring

Spring is when hutters start preparing for the new hut season. It is probably the busiest time of the year; a winter of storms, often leads to maintenance to your hut, that's sometimes unexpected.


Here are some areas to look out for...

-  **Check your roof** – make sure roof coverings are secure and waterproof.
-  **General maintenance** – Spring is an ideal time to touch up your hut, any general maintenance required, including painting, replacing any weather damaged timbers.
-  **Protect your hut from fire risk** – remove any debris from under the hut which may have accumulated over the winter.
-  **Prevent damp and mildew** – wipe interior walls, empty or replace any desiccant water traps. Try to ventilate your hut without compromising its security.
-  **Prevent intruders and vandals** – make sure windows and doors haven't swollen or warped out of shape and that they fit properly in their frames. Make sure locks and padlocks haven't corroded and are fit for purpose.
-  **Avoid liability risks** – check to make sure the hut and area around it is safe and secure, including fascia boards, steps, bases, verandas and tethered boats.
-  **Check you are insured for the correct amount** – the start of the beach hut season is always a good time to check that you are insured for the correct amount.

Summer

Summer is the time to enjoy your beach hut with family and friends.

With so many people at the beach you need to be aware of increased dangers to your hut.

-  **Barbeques** – never use accelerants such as petrol and don't leave the barbeque unattended. Never take a portable barbeque into your hut or use in an enclosed space and don't dispose of it whilst hot into a bin; leave it beside the bin.
-  **Avoid fire risk** – remove any litter, driftwood or debris that could be used as a fire source, make sure gas is turned off and keep your hut in good repair to deter fire setters. Before leaving your hut unattended, check that any sources of ignition are removed.
-  **Keep watch** – be sure to keep an eye on your hut and your neighbours', reporting any damage early as this can prevent further damage.
-  **Warm weather means higher chance of vandalism & malicious damage** – report intruders, secure your beach hut with good quality locks, locking all windows and doors when you leave. A cared-for hut is less likely to suffer from crime or antisocial behaviour. Don't leave materials around the hut that could be used to damage the hut, e.g. large stones or drift wood.
-  **Be secure** – don't leave keys or other valuables unattended or on display – keep them safely on your person or locked away. Remember to take valuables with you when you leave your hut.

If using your bike at the beach, make sure you have a good bike lock and secure it to a bike rack or lamp post.
-  **Renting out your hut** – remember you are covered for renting out your beach hut if you are insured by Love Your Hut. Brief the people you are letting out to, on the "do's and don'ts" of the beach and looking after your hut – leave a checklist in your hut to help them.



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Autumn




For many this means the end of the traditional hut season and it's a time to take care of your hut, getting ready for the winter weather.

-  **Be prepared for rain and wind** – make sure roof coverings are fixed down, secure and complete.
-  **General maintenance** – Autumn is an ideal time to touch up your hut, any general maintenance required, including painting or replacing rotting timbers.
-  **Secure your hut** – make sure all windows and doors are locked. Make sure locks are fit for purpose and of good quality.
-  **Preserve your padlocks** – protect them from rusting by spraying them with a lubricant. Wipe with petroleum jelly, wrap with cling film and then tie a plastic bag tight round the padlock.
-  **Avoid fire risk** – remove debris such as driftwood or paper from under the hut. Make sure the gas is turned off.
-  **Prevent damp and mildew** – remove fabric items from your hut. A desiccant water trap placed in the middle of your hut will catch any moisture. Try to ventilate your hut without compromising its security.
-  **Prevent rodents** – empty your bins and remove all perishable food and put a plug in your sink.

Winter

Many people close up their huts for winter. Beach huts are particularly vulnerable during the winter months, not only to storms, but to fire and vandalism too.

Here are some useful ideas to protect your hut....

-  **Protect your hut from the weather** – Check that roof coverings are fixed down with galvanised pins and roof battens. Remove lightweight solar panels if needed. Check on shutters and that sealant around the doors is effective. Check decking, verandas and balustrades for rot and protect where required. Remove any algae from decking areas.
-  **Avoid vermin damage** – Check your flooring for any concealed areas that could be exposed to vermin damage.
-  **Avoid fire risk** – remove debris such as wood and paper from underneath and around your hut. Make sure the gas is turned off and open taps on cookers, hobs and barbecues to draw through any excess gas.
-  **Be secure** – lock your hut with heavy duty padlocks bolts and security bars. Preserve your padlocks and protect from rusting by spraying them with a lubricant. Wipe with petroleum jelly, wrap with cling film and then tie a plastic bag tight around the padlock.
-  **Prevent damp and mildew** by removing fabric items from your hut. A desiccant water trap; placed in the middle of your hut; will catch any moisture. Make sure doors are shut properly to prevent warping. Try to leave some ventilation whilst maintaining the security of your hut. Empty any bins, remove all perishable food and put a plug in the sink to deter those rodents.

Finally, keep checking your hut as often as possible or ask someone to keep an eye on it for you.

If you need any more information then please contact Love Your Hut on:-

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