

Lloyds TSB Insurance reveals UK gardens are little goldmines



Released on: April 18, 2008, 6:25 am

Press Release Author: **Lloyds TSB Press Office**

Industry: [Financial](#)

Press Release Summary: Lloyds TSB Insurance research reveals the UK's gardens are turning into little goldmines containing exotic plants, hi-tech tools and luxury furniture worth £18.6 billion



Press Release Body: The UK's gardens are turning into little goldmines crammed with exotic plants, hi-tech tools and luxury furniture worth a whopping £18.6 billion*, new research by home experts **Lloyds TSB Insurance** reveals.

The [Lloyds TSB Insurance](#) survey into the nation's backyards found that the contents of the average garden are worth £1,237, while one in ten gardens (10%) is filled with goodies worth over an incredible £3,000. In a typical garden, the most expensive single item is on average £426 but one in 20 gardens (5%) has a single item over £1,000.

With spring well and truly sprung, Brits can't seem to get enough of their outdoor space. One quarter of Brits (26%) enjoy more than six hours a week in their garden during the spring and summer months.

One third (33%) of gardens have ornamental plants, one quarter (25%) have statues and ornaments while one in five (22%) have a

water feature. Almost one in ten (7%) have a patio heater while 6% have a sun house.

And Brits plan to splash out further on their gardens this summer. Half (50%) spend £200 on their garden every year while 3% spend over £750. Top of the gardener's 'wish list' for 2008 is a wallet-busting hot tub, followed by decking and water features.

But despite spending so much on their gardens, most Brits don't know whether they are insured properly. Over half (55%) have never checked that their garden contents are included on their [home insurance policy](#), while 87% don't review the value of their gardens each year to make sure they are covered. But **Lloyds TSB Insurance** warns that accidents do happen. Last year, the insurer processed 5,244 garden claims with an average value of £726.

Phil Loney, managing director, Lloyds TSB Insurance said; *"Everyone knows that we Brits are a nation of green-fingered garden lovers who like nothing better than spending time in the great outdoors. It's hard to put a price on the pleasure of a barbeque on a summer's evening but gardeners should stop to think exactly how much their backyards are worth.*

*"With all the gadgets and goodies that are available, they can quickly add up and gardeners run the risk of being under insured. A typical garden claim for **Lloyds TSB Insurance** is over £700; but in our survey, Brits estimated their backyards to be worth on average £1,237. [Home insurance](#) policies vary greatly and often have limits on how much they cover outside. Take time to calculate the value of everything outdoors and choose a policy to suit your gardening needs."*

Top 10 garden wish list for summer 2008

- 1 - Hot tub
- 2 - Decking
- 3 - Water feature
- 4 - Table and chairs
- 5 - Green energy i.e. wind turbine
- 6 - Outside lighting
- 7 - Gas BBQ
- 8 - Ornamental plants
- 9 - Swing seat
- 10 - Sun house

Lloyds TSB Home Solutions policy has been awarded 'five stars' for quality of cover by Defaqto, an independent financial product research company. The contents [insurance](#) policy covers loss or damage to growing trees, shrubs or plants following fire, theft or vandalism up to £250 per plant and up to £1,000 for any event. It also covers for loss, damage and theft of items in the open within the boundary of the home up to £1,000 for any one event. **Lloyds TSB** building insurance automatically covers wind turbines, solar panels, sun houses and hot tubs.

Mike Powell, of independent financial research company, Defaqto added, *"Our research shows that less than one third of the home policies available on the market cover contents in the garden up to £1,000 and only one in five covers at least £1,000 for garden plants. Garden cover is a valuable benefit and when choosing a policy, consumers should take care to understand the extent of the cover on offer."*

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Notes to editors

* There are 15 million gardens in the UK according to www.english-nature.org.uk 1033 UK consumers were surveyed by tickbox.net in March 2008

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