

# Home Owners Should Be Aware of Subsidence Risks During The Predicted Hot Weather, Says Ratedpeople.com

Submitted by: Punch Communications

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

---

With the Met Office predicting the summer months to be hotter and dryer than average this year, home owners should be aware of the increased risk of subsidence that this kind of weather presents according to Ratedpeople.com, the UK's largest match making service for home improvers and recommended tradesmen.

While 2007 and 2008 were victim to two of the wettest summers on record, this year is predicted to be considerably different with temperatures expected to reach as high as 35 degrees in some parts of the country.

Whilst this is great news for the increased number of people opting to stay at home this year rather than going on holiday abroad, it also increases the threat of structural damage to homes and properties around the UK. Hot weather can cause land to dry out, shrink and become unstable. Homes near trees are particularly at risk because their roots grow during dry periods in search of moisture.

The soil type around properties will give an indication of how much risk there is of the property suffering subsidence. Areas with high concentration of clay soils, a high sand or gravel content, or chalk are most at risk.

Ottokar Rosenberger, Sales and Marketing Director of Ratedpeople.com, commented: "For people currently looking to buy a home, avoiding subsidence is all about research - checking walls, completing mining searches (which are usually organised by residential property solicitors before any property is purchased and ensures that there aren't any disused mine shafts beneath the property that could potentially collapse) and contacting the Land Registry to check whether any local properties have been affected by subsidence are all advisable. However, for existing owners the most important thing to do is to regularly check external walls and if any cracks start to appear, it's probably best to consult recommended builders (<http://www.ratedpeople.com/find/builder>) to analyse and rectify the problem."

According to the Association of British Insurers, the industry has dealt with 144,000 claims relating to subsidence in the last 4 years at a cost of £825 million and, 2009 is expected to see a further increase in claims.

Whether seeking anything from a registered electrician (<http://www.ratedpeople.com/find/electrician>) to local roofers (<http://www.ratedpeople.com/find/roofer>), Ratedpeople.com can assist home owners who are looking for tradesmen recommended by others; the site covers 25 different trades all across the UK.

Every month, Ratedpeople.com manages over £30m in home improvement projects with more than 1,000 tradesmen signing up, making it the UK's largest match making service for home improvers and recommended tradesmen. The site has more than 55,000 ratings to date and its system ensures that tradesmen are only rated by the customers who find them through the site. The result is one of the fairest and most robust rating systems on the net.

For further information on how to source a recommended tradesperson in your area, visit [Ratedpeople.com](https://Ratedpeople.com).