

VPS, the Vacant Property Specialists warns landlords not to be caught out by freezing temperatures this year

Submitted by: Perfectly Picked

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Cold weather could cost £25,000 from water damage and burst pipes

Leading provider of security solutions and services to the vacant property market, VPS is warning landlords to ensure their vacant properties are well protected this winter.

Statistics from AXA insurance state, that over the last two winters customers were three times more likely to have an escape of water claim than to have a theft claim. As a result, one in a thousand people fell victim to burst pipes and with the average claim reaching a massive £25,000, the cost of the damage was not something to be underestimated!*

That's why as daylight hours diminish and temperatures drop, VPS are advising landlords that now is the time to prepare vacant properties and protect them before the cold weather sets in.

Gavin Pringle, VPS Corporate Director said: "The threat of significant damage to vacant property during winter is very real and can cost thousands of pounds to repair, as well as potentially delaying new occupants from moving in. We are encouraging property owners and managers to take action now and follow some simple steps to fight the freeze.

Many property owners underestimate the catastrophic effect that water damage can have on vacant property. Cold weather can trigger water systems to freeze and lead to burst pipes causing significant damage and water ingress, resulting in a major clean-up bill costing thousands, sometimes millions of pounds in the case of listed or heritage buildings."

Darker evenings also often result in an increase in crime, as the shorter days provide more opportunities for criminals to work under the cover of darkness often leading to a rise in malicious damage and property insurance claims during the winter months.

If you want help preparing your vacant property for winter, VPS has a range of solutions. They can simply drain down the system or protect the property by installing their unique SmartAlarm Gold and VeriFlow system, an ideal way to monitor both security and water leaks round the clock.

For further top tips and guidance on how to protect your vacant property during a cold spell, please visit our website at <http://www.vpspecialists.co.uk/advice-centre/protecting-a-vacant-property/> or download the VPS winter fact sheet at www.vpspecialists.co.uk/winter

* <http://newsroom.axa.co.uk/media-releases/2011/freezing-winters-cost-%C2%A31bn-in-burst-pipes/>

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About VPS, the Vacant Property Specialists

VPS is a specialist in securing, maintaining and managing vacant properties across a wide range of customer and industry sectors worldwide. VPS's innovative products and expert services allow customers to protect their vacant properties against unauthorised access and property decay.

The VPS Group has global revenues of approximately £200m, more than 2,000 employees and more than 90,000 properties under management. The European businesses has a turnover of £100 million, 1,300 employees and nearly 100 locations across the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain. The VPS Group also has significant operations across the USA. VPS Group is owned by funds managed by TDR Capital.

For more information visit www.vpspecialists.co.uk

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