

Halifax press release

Seven million British households are living with NERDs

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Over seven million British households are living with a NERD (Never Ending Renovation Drama), an unfinished DIY or home renovation project.

- 1.7 million households have been living with an unfinished DIY or home renovation project for more than 2 years
- Bedrooms (38%) top the league table of unfinished DIY and renovation projects
- Britons blame time pressures (50%) and (29%) financial constraints

New research from Halifax Home Insurance reveals that over 1.7 million Britons have been living with an unfinished DIY or home renovation project for more than two years. Almost quarter of a million households are so resigned to their ongoing DIY nightmare that they have lived with an unfinished project for more than ten years.

Millions of Britons are unlikely to be experiencing sweet dreams as bedrooms (38%) top the league table of unfinished DIY and renovation projects. Culinary creations will be difficult for the 2.8 million British households that are living with unfinished kitchen refurbishments. A further 2.5 million British households are living with an unfinished bathroom. TV dinners will be the order of the day for the 15% of households awaiting completion of a dining room refurbishment.

Householders taking on sizeable DIY and renovation projects risk invalidating their home insurance policies if they take on complex electrical, plumbing or building work that they are not trained to complete. If an unqualified householder causes a fire with their faulty wiring or floods the house when installing a shower they may find they are left picking up the cost of any claim.

Time poor Britons are unable to fit in DIY and renovation projects into their schedules leaving millions of properties with unfinished building works. Half (50%) of those living in a property with an unfinished DIY or renovation project blamed a lack of time for leaving the project unfinished. Almost a third (29%) blamed a lack of finances for their inability to complete a house project. Disputes with tradesmen, planning departments and neighbours have called a halt to 9% of unfinished projects.

A quarter of households (26%) living with a Never Ending Renovation Drama have been unable to invite friends or family to visit their property. Unfinished DIY projects are a major source of conflict, in a quarter (24%) of households it has resulted in arguments between partners. In one in ten cases rooms have been left completely uninhabitable. Ongoing DIY dramas result in significant mental anguish, 9% of those with unfinished projects have suffered from insomnia and 5% believe the emotional stress has impacted their performance at work.

David Rochester, Head of Underwriting at Halifax Home Insurance, said: "Budgeting effectively for the financial cost of completing a DIY project and being realistic about the time it will take to complete it can save significant heartache. Employing a professional tradesperson can be an effective strategy to ensure work is completed on time, on budget and to an acceptable standard. Indeed, employing a qualified tradesperson to complete

complex renovation projects is vital if householders don't want to risk invalidating their insurance policy if a problem occurs."

Almost half (45%) of households in Wales and the West are living with an unfinished DIY or home renovation project. People living in Scotland are the least likely to be living with an ongoing DIY nightmare at home.

Ends

Table One: Regional percentage of households living with an unfinished DIY / renovation project

Region	Percentage of households living with an unfinished DIY / renovation project
Wales and South west	45%
Northern England	30%
Midlands	28%
South East	23%
Scotland	19%

Source: Halifax Home Insurance 2008

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Editors' Notes

1. Research conducted by ICM amongst 1052 UK adults 25th-27th April 2008. Figures have been rebased using figures supplied by the Office of National Statistics.

Halifax Home Insurance

- Further details of Halifax Home Insurance products can be found online at www.halifax.co.uk/insurance, by calling 0800 169 8785 or by visiting their local branch.
- New customers receive up to 35% discount when buying Halifax Home Insurance online.