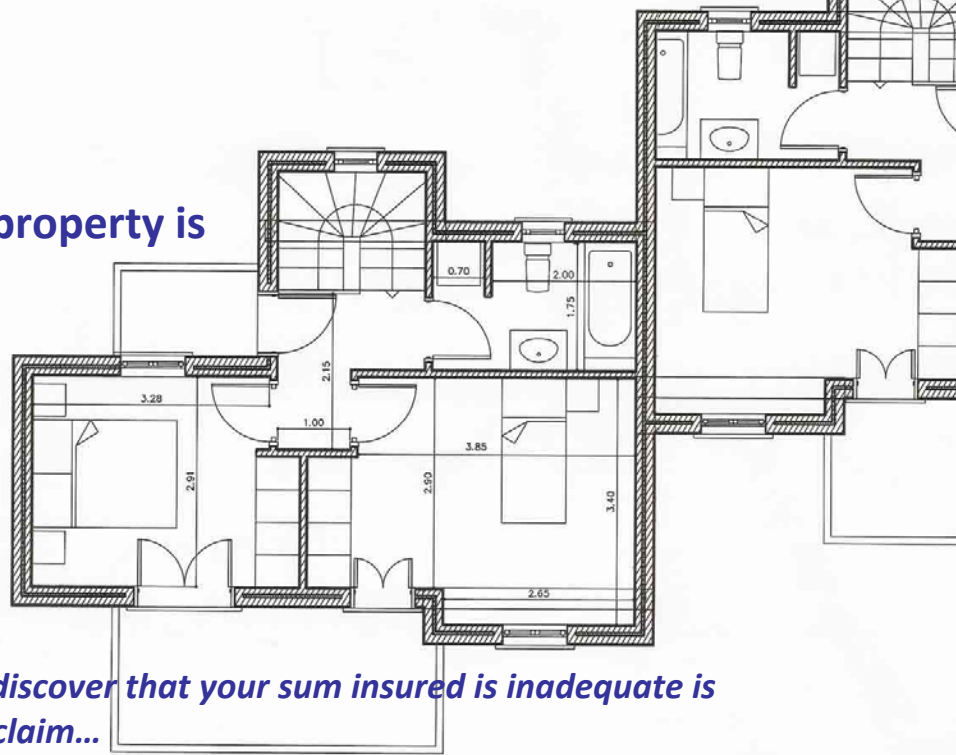


## How to ensure your property is fully insured



*The last time you want to discover that your sum insured is inadequate is when you need to make a claim...*

At **Independent Insurance Services**, we pride ourselves on being specialists in property insurance. With 77%\* of all properties being undervalued, this is clearly a widespread concern and therefore we thought we would provide you with some pointers to ensure that your property is not under-insured.

1. Make sure you know what is included in your insurance policy definition as this may include a range of ancillary items, such as walls, gates, fences, garages and other outbuildings. These items are frequently forgotten about, but must be taken into consideration when calculating the sum insured.
2. Include the cost of removing debris, as well as architects' and surveyors' fee, when calculating the reinstatement figure.
3. You may also need to consider other reconstruction expenses, such as site decontamination or demolition of a fire-damaged building.
4. Keep up to date with current building requirements and local planning criteria, as new demands can significantly increase rebuilding costs. For example, owners are increasingly being required to reinstate properties with improved thermal efficiency or on-site power generation.
5. The best way to obtain an accurate sum insured is by commissioning a regulated surveyor – whose expertise should include quantity surveying – to carry out a professional valuation every three to five years. That way, you will be less at risk of a claim shortfall.

Produced by Ray Johnson, Independent Insurance Services (13.10.2010)

*\*Sourced from Aviva*