

The ExxonMobil Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

SMF Crouch and Co. Ltd.

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SMF Crouch and Co. have developed THATCH-SAFE, a fire barrier which goes over the roof rafters and under the thatch to meet both fire regulation and new insulation requirements, minimising detrimental effect on the lifespan of the thatched roofs associated with felts and also going around the chimney which is proven to be one of the main causes of thatched roof fires.

S.M.F. Crouch & Co. Ltd

Nationwide Master Thatchers

THATCH-SAFE reduces the damage to the building because the insulating effect stops the rafters burning and reduces the chance of the house burning to the ground. Its breathability reduces premature rotting of the thatched roof associated with a solid membrane.



The product is 20mm thick and 1m x 5m per sheet and is applied horizontally to the rafters and held on with battens and galvanised nails. The roof is then ready to thatch and no counter battens or extra insulation are required.

Recent Fire Safety Roadshows with the Thatched Owner group have proved useful in raising the profile and Zurich Insurance and others have now reduced premiums to their customers who have the product installed.

SMF Crouch have had many discussions with thatchers, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, building surveyors, insurers and builders during the three year process of developing the product. The company have worked with NFDC and Test Valley District Councils to attain LABC building approval from January 2008.

