

Claims soaring

Cannabis crops, electric trip-wires, bricked-up doors and even indoor chicken farms are just some of the horror renovations made by rogue tenants on Australian rental properties.

Insurance claims for malicious damage caused by tenants have risen 275 per cent to \$3000 over the past five years, according to Adelaide-based insurance broker Terri Scheer.

In one case tenants filled a room with water to house a hydroponic system to grow marijuana. In another rental-turned-drug den, the tenants set up an electric trip wire, meaning the landlord or property manager risked



House-grown hydroponic cannabis.

death by electrocution if they entered the property. Sometimes tenants try their hand at DIY.

Some tried to create a rural lifestyle in an inner-city apartment, filling in their sunken living room

with dirt and planting a vegetable patch. And they kept chooks in the kitchen – housed in make-shift coops.