

A safe investment

As many as nine out of ten watches and pieces of jewellery are underinsured. Not a problem, perhaps, until your prized Daytona goes missing...

Among the luxuries a man affords himself in life, a watch will no doubt appear near the top of the list. Of course, as anyone who's ever invested in serious wrist candy will attest, choosing the right timepiece will force you to ask questions. 'Why am I buying this watch?' 'Where will I be wearing it and what with?' 'What colour do I want? What size, what shape?' Your answers will dictate the brand and model you choose.

An equally important question you must also ask yourself – and one that will probably only arise once you're on the way home, admiring the new plaything strapped to your wrist – is with whom you should insure this latest piece of kit. If you've spent a small fortune on a vintage Rolex, a limited-edition Patek Philippe or something else whose rarity will demand paying a premium to replace, this should actually be one of the most pertinent questions of all.

Buying 'off-the-peg insurance' can be a fundamentally flawed strategy in this case, especially where rare and unique timepieces are concerned. Berkeley Square-based Quantum Underwriting Solutions was formed precisely for this reason, to offer a bespoke service for those serious about protecting their assets. The company's motto is simple – for the process of high-value personal insurance you need to apply both expert advice and personal touch.

By working with leading insurer-of-the-wealthy Chubb, Quantum merges all a client's insurance needs into a single portfolio, managed by a single

insurance specialist, with a single renewal date. Put simply: they create a portfolio that is totally bespoke to an individual's unique lifestyle.

'With other companies, people can have seven or eight insurance policies with invoices and transactions all over the place,' says Quantum's Founder James Wasdell. 'It's not a "relationship" attitude towards insurance and its hugely inefficient. We offer one policy with one person to manage it. That person is contactable directly and will work on a case for as long as the client remains with us. It's very much a personalised approach to service.'

What is significant for anyone who shares their home with a collection of high-value watches or jewellery, is the fact that the insurance on these kinds of assets cannot usually be index-linked each year. 'Some clients are quite happy to self certificate their values, but for things like good quality diamonds and watches which have been bought over many years, more attention is needed. We can arrange for a specialist valuer to visit a client's home to value the collection in person,' says Wasdell. 'The valuer will also create an inventory of photographs from which they can then update values each year meaning revisits aren't necessary. We also advise proactively on security and risk management; after all it's better to avoid the loss in the first place.'

Sympathetic to the distress that theft or accident can cause, Quantum will also arrange for the immediate transfer of money into a claimant's account, once the claim has been agreed. Gone are the days of waiting days on end for the insurer's cheque to arrive in the post. Managing the insurance arrangements for almost 1,500 discerning clients, Quantum insures assets collectively worth in excess of £2 billion. To find out how Quantum can safeguard you and your most precious assets, visit quantumplc.com. 

*Quantum Underwriting Solutions Plc,
Berkeley Square, W1J (0203 384 1725)*

LEFT: MILLIONAIRE SILVER SAFE, £22,010 AND TOURBILLON SAFE, £46,120 BOTH BY BOCA DO LOBO (BOCADOLOBO.COM)

