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"Decorating, buying new furniture and flooring top the wish list for 2017. Owner-occupiers are the most engaged with spending on the home. Consumers are seamlessly using a range of channels when shopping, although their desire to judge for themselves remains a major reason why they will continue to visit physical stores when choosing goods for the home."

- Jane Westgarth, Senior Market Analyst

## This report looks at the following areas:

- What is the impact of private renting on spending on the home?
- Is the smart home of interest to the British consumer?
- Will internet shopping take the place of visiting stores for homewares?

Spending on the home grew by 4.2% in 2016 to reach £28.6 billion. This was the third consecutive year of spending growth as consumer confidence remained high, consumers borrowed more and the housing market was strong. Households' spending intentions for 2017 are at a similar level to that which we saw a year earlier – positive news for furniture, DIY and homewares retailers. A house move triggers a period of higher spending on the home as people put their own personality into their homes and make them a more enjoyable place to live. Consequently, ongoing buoyancy of housing transactions is an important indicator of how this market will perform and is closely linked to demand for big-ticket items and projects such as refitting kitchens or extending the home. Although owner-occupiers are clearly the most important consumers in this market, renters, including those who rent from private landlords also engage with buying for the home, focusing on low-ticket items of furniture as well as home adornment.

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