

Frequently Asked Questions



Homeowners' Insurance

Are all homeowners' policies the same?

Each homeowners' policy is tailored to fit the specific needs and lifestyle of the homeowner. There are "standard" policies, however you should talk to your agent to make sure you've got the coverages you feel are necessary for your home.

How can I reduce my insurance premiums?

There are several ways to do this:

- Ask for a higher deductible. Deductibles represent the amount of money you pay before you make the claim. Requesting a higher deductible can lower your premium
- Combine your home and auto coverages, and the carrier may give you as much as a 15% credit
- Be certain you're receiving all the discounts you're entitled to. Homeowners are often eligible for discounts if they have smoke detectors, fire and burglar alarms, if they make updates to the home, and if they don't smoke

I work from home. Does my homeowners insurance cover my computer equipment?

Generally, home office equipment isn't covered by homeowners policies. Small business owners can buy additional coverage with an endorsement. Large business owners need to buy separate policies.

What is renter's insurance?

If you rent, rather than own your home, you need renter's insurance to protect your valuables against fire and theft and also possibly safeguard against someone who might get hurt while on the property. Your landlord's homeowners policy will not cover these things.

Will my child have coverage for personal items while away at college?

So long as your child is still considered a member of your household, a certain percentage of your policy extends to other temporary household locations.

What is replacement cost on contents?

This coverage eliminates the depreciation and pays the dollar amount it will cost to replace an item today, if needed.

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What kinds of perils am I protected against?

Remember that policies vary but homeowners insurance usually covers damage to both structures and personal property caused by:

- Fire or lightning
- Windstorm or hail
- Explosions, riot or civil commotion
- Aircraft
- Vehicles
- Smoke
- Theft or vandalism
- Falling objects
- Weight of ice, snow or sleet
- Freezing of plumbing, heating, air conditioning or other such household system

What about floods, earthquakes and other catastrophes?

Most catastrophes are covered; for example, wind damage from hurricanes and tornadoes come under the windstorm peril listed above and so are included. Flood and earthquake damage, however, are not covered by a standard policy.