

RENTERS INSURANCE

Renters insurance is a type of insurance often overlooked by consumers. If you rent your home, apartment, condominium or live in military-provided housing and do not have renters insurance, you have no coverage if your possessions are stolen or damaged in a windstorm or fire. You would not be covered if you were held legally liable for injury to someone or for damage to their property.

Do not assume your landlord's insurance will protect your possessions. Landlords generally carry insurance only on the building itself.

YOU MAY NEED RENTERS INSURANCE IF:

- » You do not own a home but are renting a house or apartment, etc.
- » You live in military housing. The federal government or privatized housing provider may provide minimal, limited coverage for your personal possessions if they are damaged or stolen from your quarters. Your personal possessions are your responsibility. Determine the limits and extent of your coverage. You may need supplemental coverage to fully protect your assets.

BASIC COVERAGE

PERSONAL PROPERTY

May be purchased to cover loss from named causes of losses — named perils. Named perils policies cover property only if it is stolen or damaged by a cause named in the policy.

ACTUAL CASH VALUE (ACV) POLICIES

Replaces your damaged or stolen property minus a deduction for depreciation. While potentially lowering cost, this type of coverage could leave you with substantially less than it costs to replace your property.

REPLACEMENT COST POLICIES

Replaces your damaged or stolen property at the price you have to pay when you replace or repair it. To claim replacement cost, you must actually replace or repair the item.

LIABILITY

Pays for damages, such as medical expenses or repairs, if you are legally liable for someone else's injuries or property damage. For example, if a neighbor trips on your rug and breaks an arm, liability coverage would pay the medical bills.

TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT COVERAGE

Create a record of your possessions, including purchase prices, dates purchased, serial numbers and receipts. If you have to file a claim, this will ensure you do not overlook anything lost in a disaster.

Supplement your inventory with photographs or video. Store a copy of your inventory, receipts and photographs as well as a hard copy of important electronic documents in a secure location away from your residence, such as a safe deposit box at a bank. When purchasing a renters policy, you may choose how the insurance company will assess the value of your property in the event of a claim.



ABOUT RENTERS INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Premiums for a renters policy are determined by various factors.

NON-OWNED RESIDENCE

- » Amount of personal property.
- » Liability limits.
- » Geographic location.

CLAIMS HISTORY

The fewer claims you have, the lower your insurance rate.

CREDIT RATING

Individuals with good financial habits are generally more responsible in other areas of their lives and therefore file fewer claims.

TO LOWER PREMIUM COSTS

- » Raise your deductible — the amount of damages you agree to pay before your insurer starts paying — but only if you have the money available to cover the increased deductible.
- » Maintain a good credit rating.

