Renters Insurance

Protect your stuff

THE ABCs OF RENTERS INSURANCE

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Need help? Contact us:
800-726-7390
insurance.mo.gov
or
Scan the QR code
Your belongings are valuable to you.

But what if …

► Your apartment or rental home is damaged by a fire or storm?
► Your place is robbed?
► A guest is injured in your home?

Do you have the funds to replace everything that was damaged or stolen? **Insurance can protect you from such unpredictable events.**

**Buying renters insurance**

The Missouri Department of Insurance has tools on its website to help you:

► Search for companies that sell renters insurance.
► Review frequently asked questions about renters insurance.
► Search for a licensed agent or agency near you.
► Review consumer complaint history for insurance companies.

**Average cost**

$8-21 per month for $20,000 to $30,000 of coverage for your possessions.

That’s the **cost of 2-4 large lattes** at your favorite coffee shop.

Log on to insurance.mo.gov to find out more
Renters insurance basics

Renters insurance protects you from the unexpected burden of paying to replace your belongings should disaster strike. It also helps pay:

- Cost of additional living expenses while you are displaced from your residence.
- Medical bills, up to a limit, if a guest is injured on your property.

**The ABCs of Renters Insurance**

Review your renters policy annually to make sure you have enough coverage. You don’t want to be underinsured if disaster strikes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is covered:</th>
<th>What is not covered:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire &amp; smoke</td>
<td>Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm &amp; hail</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning</td>
<td>Sewer &amp; drain backup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism &amp; theft</td>
<td>Normal wear &amp; tear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of ice, snow or sleet</td>
<td>Cars parked on your property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Speak Up**

Take time to go over the details of your policy with your agent. If you think you need more coverage, tell your agent.
What’s not covered by renters insurance

The right renters insurance coverage can bring peace of mind. However, there are a few things that don’t fall under the standard renters policy, including:

► Flood damage
► Earthquake damage

You’ll need a separate policy to cover this type of damage.

Add it on

If you own expensive items, you may need extra coverage on your policy to ensure that your belongings are better protected. Here is coverage (called a rider or endorsement) you can add to your renters policy:

**Sewer and drain backup**
This covers damage caused by water backup from drains, sewers or sump pumps.

**Jewelry, antiques, firearms**
Expensive items need additional coverage. You may want to get them appraised for their value.

**Home-based business**
If you have a home business, this ensures your business items are better protected.

You will be responsible for the policy deductible if you have a claim. A higher deductible can save you money on premiums.

College students:
If you live on campus, your parents’ renters (or homeowners) policy may cover your belongings.
Target best policy price

Missouri has a highly competitive insurance market. Use this worksheet to compare offers as you shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renters policy coverage amount</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fill in company name (above) and cost (below) to compare policies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal property limits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability protection (each occurrence)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest medical (per person)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to property of others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional coverage (ask your agent)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement coverage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer and drain backup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewelry and firearms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, collectibles and antiques</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional policies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual premium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deductible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare prices of renters insurance from different insurance companies every two years.
QUESTIONS TO ASK INSURANCE AGENT

What does this policy cover? __________________________

What is not covered? __________________________

Do I have enough insurance to replace my belongings? __________________

Does this policy give me replacement cost or actual cash value coverage? __________________________

Will my coverage limits increase over time or will I have to adjust them periodically? __________________________

Does this policy cover water damage, including damage from sewer, drain or sump pump backup? __________________________

Do I need flood & earthquake insurance? What is the cost? ____________

Are there limits on expensive items like jewelry or firearms? ____________

How much will my premium be? __________________ How much can I save by increasing my deductible? ____________

What discounts are available? __________________________

Are there any improvements I can make to lower my premium? __________________________

How do I file a claim? __________________________

Does your company have 24-hour claim service? __________________________

Check with us to make sure your agent is licensed in Missouri.
Understanding your declarations page

1. **Policy period:** When coverage begins and ends
2. **Limits:** The most your policy will pay
3. **Deductible:** What you pay when you have a claim

Your Insurance Company
3535 Second St.
Company Town, USA 54321

Policy number: XX-XXXXXX-XX

**Policy period:** 12 months
**Effective date:** May 1, 2013
**Expiration date:** May 1, 2014

Renters Policy <SAMPLE>

**Automatic renewal:** If the policy period is shown as 12 months, this policy will be renewed automatically subject to the premiums, rules and forms in effect for each succeeding policy period.

**Location of residence premises:** Same as insured’s address

**Inflation coverage index:** XXX.X

**Deductibles – Section I**
- Other losses: $500

In case of loss under this policy, the deductible will be applied per occurrence and will be deducted from the amount of loss. Other deductibles may apply – refer to your policy.

**Liability limits**
- A: Personal property: $25,000
- B: Loss of use: Actual loss sustained
- L: Personal liability (each occurrence): $100,000
- D: Damage to property of others: $1,000
- M: Medical payments to others (each person): $2,000

**Policy premium:** $200

**Discounts applied**
- Renters/Auto
- Renters protection (fire alarms, smoke detectors or burglar alarms)
- Claim record/Customer longevity
- Age of customer

**Loss of settlement provisions (see policy)**
- A1: Limited replacement cost – Coverage B

**Forms, options and endorsements**
- Renters policy: XX-XXXX
- Sewer and water backup: XX-XXXX
- $10,000/$500 deductible
- Jewelry and furs $2,000 each: Option XX

Your policy consists of this page, any endorsements and the policy form. Keep together.
Replacing your belongings

Actual cash value vs. Replacement cost
The amount needed to repair or replace your belongings, minus depreciation. Depreciation is the decrease in value of property because of age or use.

The amount needed to replace an item at today’s price.

Will the insurance company always pay the personal property limit shown on your policy?
No. The policy limit is the most the company will pay.

HOUSEHOLD BELONGINGS
ACV vs. Replacement cost
(Most companies follow this formula)

How replacement cost works: An insurance company will first pay you the ACV of an item. Once the item is replaced and receipt submitted, the company will then settle up with you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual cash value</th>
<th>Depreciation</th>
<th>Replacement cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Television (1 year old)</td>
<td>$640</td>
<td>$160 (20%)</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather couch (10 years old)</td>
<td>$1,120</td>
<td>$1,680 (60%)</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Replacement cost coverage may increase your premium.
Preparing a home inventory

A home inventory is a list of all your belongings – from socks to computers to furniture. If your personal property is damaged or stolen, having an inventory makes filing a claim with your insurance company much easier – you may even get a larger payment because your list will be more comprehensive.

**Check it off: Tips to make your home inventory more useful**

► Record specific details such as the serial numbers for electronic items and appliances.
► Photograph or videotape valuable items and attach them to your checklist.
► Update your inventory annually and when you make large purchases.

**Download an inventory**

The department’s website offers three options:

- **Our book**
  
  Order or download from our website.

- **iPhone**
  
  Scan the QR codes to download a home inventory app on your smartphone. Or go to Apple’s App Store or Google Play Store.

- **Android**
  
**Lock it down**

Keep your home inventory in a safe, fire-proof box, or store it at the home of a family member or friend. For electronic versions, email them to yourself.

**Out-of-pocket cost: You will be responsible for the deductible if damage or loss occurs to your belongings.**
Protecting against lawsuits

Accidents happen
Renters insurance gives you the protection you need in case someone is injured on your property.

It also protects you from:
► Lawsuits against you or your family members.
► Damage or injury your pets cause to others.

Protect everything else, even while away from home
Renters insurance covers your possessions even if they are damaged or stolen while off site – such as in a car.

Contact us
For more information on other types of insurance, including:
► Auto ► Life ► Health ► Business

Talk to your agent about increasing your liability limits for more protection.
If you have questions about your insurance policy or need to file a complaint or verify the license of an insurance company or agent, contact us:

800-726-7390
insurance.mo.gov