

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE INFORMATION

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR PROPERTY

If you own a home or condominium, consider protecting your property and **personal property** by purchasing insurance.

Chances are your home is already insured if you have a mortgage on the property since most lenders make insurance a condition of the loan.

Homeowners or **Unit owners** insurance offers the most comprehensive coverage available. However, most of these policies will not protect you from a flood, a hurricane, or an earthquake loss.

Know the policy types. An **open perils** policy covers any event that is not excluded. A **named perils** policy covers only the events listed in the policy. For example, a named perils policy that only lists flood will not pay for damage caused by a fire. Ask your agent what your policies cover.

Your mortgage lender may require you to purchase a separate flood or hurricane policy. Homeowners insurance pays claims for damage to your home, garage and other outbuildings; for loss of furniture and other personal property due to damage or theft, both at home and away from; and for additional living expenses if you rent temporary quarters while your house is being repaired (due to a covered loss).

Homeowners insurance includes liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage that you cause to others through negligence, and for accidents happening in and around your home, as well as away from home. When deciding how much insurance coverage to buy, consider the cost and how much you can afford. Assess the cost of replacing your home if it is totally destroyed, and determine the present value of your furniture and personal property. Do you want to be fully reimbursed when a loss occurs? Or, for a lower premium would you be willing to accept partial payment for the loss or damage? Remember that selecting a higher deductible is another way to lower your insurance premium.

Replacement cost coverage pays for the cost of rebuilding your house if it is destroyed by fire or other specified perils. Replacement cost coverage will also pay for personal property, but usually at an additional premium.

Actual cash value (ACV) is an

alternative reimbursement provision to Replacement cost. ACV coverage pays to replace your property at its replacement value minus **depreciation** or at the damaged property's **fair market value**. While ACV coverage is less expensive, it provides less coverage than Replacement cost coverage. It also pays for any injuries occurring in and around your home to persons other than you or your family. Medical payments coverage also pays claims for injuries outside your home that are caused by you, a family member living with you, or by your pet.

Homeowners policies generally provide limited coverage for certain valuables, including money, gold, jewelry, and stamp and coin collections.

State of Hawaii Insurance Division

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