



How to shop smart for home insurance

This checklist can help you make sure your home insurance fits your needs. Here are some questions you should ask when shopping for home insurance.

Coverages

- How much coverage do I need for my house and personal property? Consider what it would cost to rebuild your home.
- Do I need other coverages?
 - Other structures, like fences, detached garages, or sheds.
 - Additional living expenses.
 - Personal liability.
 - Medical payments.
- Should I get an all risk or named peril policy?
- Should I get replacement cost or actual cash value coverage?
- Do I need other coverages because of where I live or what I want to cover?
 - Flood insurance.
 - Windstorm and hail insurance.
 - Extra coverage for jewelry, firearms, or special collections.
 - More liability insurance.

Costs

- What should my deductible be?
- What discounts do I qualify for?
- Is the price different if I pay in advance?

Discounts

What discounts do I have to lower my premium?

- Monitored burglar or fire alarm system.
- Fire sprinkler system.
- Other policies with the same company.
- No claims filed for three years in a row.

Shopping tips

- Get price quotes from several companies using HelpInsure.com.
- Contact your top choices to get actual price quotes. Use our worksheet to compare policies. (www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/documents/howworksheet.pdf)
- Look at a company's complaint record. (www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/company-profiles-and-agents-for-service-of-process.html).
- Make sure the company is licensed. (www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/company-profiles-and-agents-for-service-of-process.html)
- Don't cancel your current policy until you get your new policy or a written statement that proves you have coverage.

Need more help?

Call TDI's Help Line at 800-252-3439 to see if a company is licensed, check its complaint history, or ask other questions.

Use our Homeowners insurance guide to learn more about how home insurance works, including coverages, deductibles, and limits. (www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/consumer/cb025.html)

Resources

- Home insurance policies: All risk or named peril (www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/all-risk-or-named-peril-home-insurance-policies.html)
- Home policies: Replacement cost or actual cash value? (www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/home-insurance-policies-replacement-cost-or-actual-cash-value.html)
- Flood insurance: Why you need a policy (www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/flood-insurance-cost.html)
- Collectibles: Why you may need extra insurance coverage (www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/collectibles-why-you-may-need-extra-insurance-coverage.html)
- 10 steps to find the right home insurance (www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/home-insurance.html)