

WHAT DOES YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE POLICY COVER?

By Basil Housewright, Jr.

Your home and its contents are perhaps your most valuable possessions. You need the best coverage available at a reasonable price. This article will discuss the basic coverage's typically available on a homeowners insurance policy. Unfortunately most all Home Insurance Companies have designed their own unique homeowners insurance policy so there is not a "Standard Homeowners Insurance Policy" sold in Texas now. Most all home insurance policies vary substantially from Company to Company. This makes it very important to use the services of a local Independent Insurance Agency so they can assist you with the optional limits, coverage's, deductibles and numerous enhancements available on a homeowner's insurance policy. To determine which specific coverage's you have on your current homeowner's policy review the Declarations of Coverage page for a basic summary of limits and the policy itself for what is covered and what is excluded. This can be a very time consuming and confusing task. A local Independent Insurance Agency can typically provide simplified summaries of coverage for each unique plan offered by the various Companies and help you chose the plan best suited for your particular situation. It is better to know what you have than wait until you have a loss and find out it is not covered.

Section I - Property Coverage's

Coverage A - Dwelling - covers you dwelling (home), attached structures, built in appliances and fixtures and permanently installed floor covering. Most Home Insurance Companies will require you insure your home to the minimum current estimated replacement cost of the home as calculated by nationally recognized experts in this field.

Coverage B - Other Structures - covers other structures on you premises not permanently attached to your dwelling such as a detached garage, dog house, perimeter fence, storage building, etc.

Coverage C - Personal property - covers your personal property or contents such as furniture, clothing electronics and other household items. This is usually a minimum of a percentage of the dwelling limit but typically you choose a higher dollar amount limit if you think your possessions are worth more to replace than the minimum limit provided.

Coverage D - Loss of use - covers the additional living expenses you incur when your home can't be used due to an insured loss. This is usually a percentage of dwelling limit.

Section II – Liability Coverage's

Coverage E - Personal Liability - covers your personal liability claims and suits for bodily injury or property damage you are libel for due to unintentional acts committed by you or qualified family members and your pets (if not excluded). You choose this limit typically to a limit of up to \$500,000 per claim.

Coverage F - Medical payments - covers medical expenses for minor injuries to others even if you were not at fault if they incur injuries on your property. You chose this limit typically to a limit of up to \$5,000 per person per claim.

One major exclusion on a home insurance policy is coverage for damage to the dwelling or contents from flood. A separate flood insurance policy must be purchased which your home insurance agency should be able to provide for you. Consult a local Independent Insurance Agency for expert advice on what is available.

Basil is manager of Texans Insurance & Financial Group, Inc a local Independent Insurance Agency operating in Sugar Land since 1991. He can be reached at (281) 277-7800, Fax (281) 277-7801, E-Mail – basil@texansinsure.com. Visit www.texansinsure.com.