

Renter's Insurance 101

But wait...I thought I was covered under my Parent's Homeowner's Insurance?

Think Again.

Most homeowner's policies have specific clauses that prohibit coverage for items kept in their child's college dwelling. What if something catastrophic happened, such as a tornado or a fire? Could you afford to replace your belongings? What if even something small happened, such as your upstairs neighbors plumbing breaks, turning your living room into a small pond? Could you afford it then? What if someone breaks into your home and steals your laptop? Regardless, it is very important to consider renters insurance to protect your valuables...and your wallet.

What is Renter's Insurance?

Renter's Insurance is available to anyone living in a rental property. It can protect your personal property against fire, theft, and vandalism. It can also protect you against a liability lawsuit if you are responsible for injuring a person or damaging another person's property, regardless of where the incident occurs.

Why should I get it?

Anyone renting an apartment, townhouse, or condo should consider getting Renter's Insurance. Your home is full of personal possessions that are more valuable than you may be aware. Most apartments are full of valuable furniture, stereo equipment, clothing, computer equipment, and kitchenware that on average adds up to about \$30,000!

How much does it cost?

This depends on where the property is located, its size, and many other factors that an insurance company takes into consideration. It is usually less expensive than both auto and homeowners insurance in the same area.

What does it cover?

Renter's Insurance typically covers fire, theft, lightning, vandalism, explosions, wind or water damage (NOT floods). It also protects against lawsuits filed against you if someone is injured at your residence. Additionally, if your residence is deemed uninhabitable due to a covered incident, the insurance company will provide you with temporary living.

Which company is cheaper/what are the different rates of different companies?

State Farm Insurance— about \$93.00 annually (\$7.75 per month with payment plan)
Geico- \$189.00 for one year premium
Allstate— about \$65.00 per year
ERenter Plan- \$152 per year for \$10K policy, up to \$386 per year for \$40K policy.

Additional ways to save:

If possible, buy your renter's insurance from the same company as your car insurance— you could potentially save up to 15%. If nobody smokes in your residence, then apply for a non-smokers discount. If you can afford to pay a higher deductible in the event of a catastrophe then raise it. Shop around! You never know who will give you the best deal!