



INSURANCE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2025

4 COMMON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE MISTAKES



Whether you are buying your first home or moving to a new home, you have to make sure that your homeowners insurance needs are met. It is sometimes easy to make mistakes when setting up your policy, and this might affect how much money you are entitled to receive from a settlement.

Try to avoid making the following mistakes when putting together your home insurance policy.

Overestimating How Much Home Insurance You Have

It's common for homebuyers to only purchase a basic homeowners insurance policy and expect it to cover them against any potential property loss. However, the most standard coverage won't always cover you.

In general, your dwelling insurance limits should be worth at least 80% of your home's replacement cost value. Should your home be destroyed in a catastrophic event, then this coverage can help you rebuild your home similar to how it was before the hazard. Keep in mind, certain types of damage, such as earthquake and flood damage, will not be covered under your standard dwelling insurance.

Waiting Too Long to File a Claim

If you ever have to file a claim on your homeowners insurance, then you need to do so promptly. If you wait months (or even years) then your insurer will have a

harder time verifying your claim, and as a result, they might decline to cover you. The earlier you file, the sooner you will get a settlement for your losses.

Having a Deductible that is Too High or Too Low

Your dwelling and possessions coverage will likely contain deductibles, which are dollar amounts that you must pay for losses before your insurance will pay. So, if you have a \$500 possessions deductible, then you must pay for \$500 worth of damage to your possessions out of pocket before insurance will cover any damages. A deductible that is too high can make it difficult to pay when you need to. On the other hand, a deductible that is too low can result in high premiums.

Not Notifying Your Insurer

When you make changes in your home, you must notify your home insurer. For example, if you add a new wing to the home, then you must notify your insurer. This will guarantee that your policy will provide the appropriate coverage. Failing to notify the insurer could result in a lack of coverage later on.

Don't forget, while it is important to save money on home insurance, it is also important to have the right balance of coverage, rather than just the cheapest policy altogether.

We will help you ensure that you always have the perfect balance of coverage.

Our Monthly Newsletter For Family, Friends and Clients



Joshua Medure
Agency Partner



David Varrati
Agency Partner

What's inside:

- Guess the Celebrity...p4
- Protect Your Home...p2
- Referral Program...p3
- Car Thieves...p4



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GUESS THE CELEBRITY?

Send your answer to service@mvpins.com. and you could

WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD

Every correct answer will be entered into a drawing, and we'll select one winner.

Last months winner:
Justin Mikita

it was...**Steve Carell**

No purchase necessary. Contest open to everyone.



PROTECT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

The cold winter weather can be hard on your home. Here are a few tips to keep your home safe, secure and claim free during this winter season.

Things to consider when protecting your home in Winter.

Stove and Furnace Safety

Check on your wood stove or furnace before the onset of winter to make sure they are correctly working and

properly ventilated. It also helps to have them examined thoroughly.

Pipes and Plumbing

Run water through all the fixtures to minimize the chances of frozen pipes. Also, test the shut-off valves to prevent damage if the pipes freeze. It helps to wrap the pipes using insulation sleeves to protect them.

Sidewalks and Driveways

Ensure the pathways are free of snow and ice. Also, remove snow from exhaust vents and basement windows to avoid water damage.

Branches and Other Debris

Trim the branches that are too close to your home and remove the ones that may fall on utility lines in a blizzard or ice storm. This can help prevent damage to electrical lines and avoid blackouts.

7 Winter insurance tips to protect you, your family and your home.

Regular Checks – Be sure somebody frequently checks your property while you are away on holiday. Some home insurance brokerages may dismiss claims for any damage if the home was not regularly monitored.

Snow Damages – Your home insurance will cover damages caused by heavy snow, but it helps to make sure your home is free of snow as much as possible.

Trees and Branches – The damage caused by a tree falling due to a winter storm on the property is usually covered by a home insurance policy.

Pipes - Insulating the pipes can help avoid potential damages and filing claims. Also, the 'type' of pipes can impact the rates of your home insurance.

Additional Living Expenses – Be sure your policy covers temporary accommodations when insured repairs are conducted in your home.

Heating - It helps to remember that the rates of home insurance policies are affected by the heat source. Wood stoves and wood-burning fireplaces may increase your premium.

Sewage – In most cases, sewer backup is not included in the home insurance policy. You may purchase it as additional coverage.



INSURANCE TIPS TO START YOUR NEW YEAR

Although insurance is probably one of the last things on your mind, it will most certainly be one of the first things on your mind in case of an accident or natural disaster.

Here are our Top 10 Insurance Tips for the New Year:

1. Did you get jewelry for Christmas? Some high value items like jewelry, paintings, sculptures, rare collectibles, and even top tier wines may not be covered. Talk with your insurance agent about additional coverage.
2. During the Winter season is a good time to make sure your boat, ATV, and other toys you have in storage are listed on your home and auto policies. These items don't have automatic coverage so you need to review them with your agent.
3. A question to ask yourself...what items have changed in 2024 that might mean you need to review your life insurance coverage? Or what events are going to happen in 2025 that would require more life insurance coverage?
4. Are you going to be ready for Medicare this coming year? Buying Medicare coverage can be confusing the first time so make sure you plan ahead and talk to a representative early enough and gets all the details.
5. Did you improve your home in 2024? As a stipulation of your home insurance, you are required to let your insurance company know any time you improve your home by more than 10%.
6. Did you reduce the usage of your cars? Most companies rate the cost of your auto insurance by how much you drive and if you are working from home you could save a few dollars a year.
7. Are there new discounts you may be eligible for? If you changed jobs or finished a degree you may be eligible for an additional discount on your home and auto insurance. So let us know about any major changes in your life.
8. What new coverages are available? Each year insurance companies come out with new and different coverages. While not all of them may apply to everyone there are some that are very good coverages for low premium cost.
9. When is the last time you reviewed your coverage? Do you understand what you are actually covered for...or are you just paying the bills and hoping you have the right coverage when you need it!
10. Lastly, don't forget to have us provide you with quotes for your insurance. We have a number of companies that are very competitive and provide great value to our customers.



NEW FOR 2025

REFERRAL REWARDS



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\$25

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FOR EACH REFERRAL



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LAST MONTH'S WINNER: JOHN LYONS

THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all the people who referred their friends & family to us this month...

**Kevin Williamson Charles Graham Yuriy Koziy
Larry Bresnahan John Lyons Buddy Zilch
Nutan Venkatakris**

Also for all your Wonderful Reviews

Bethany Mcfall did an amazing job giving me the service I needed.. Very timely and very professional.. she also has great knowledge in this field of contractors insurance..I'm very pleased and feel as though I'm in great hands! Thank you Bethany!

Jason Parry

"Incredible service in remarkable time. Above and beyond!!"

Meghan Cowart

"Very friendly and competent service. Saved me \$300/mo on my car insurance! Highly recommend."

Keith W

Check out more reviews at: www.mvpins.com

10 YEAR TERM LIFE RATE

Erie Family Life 10-Year-Term

Ultra-Select Non-tobacco Class
(Qualification required)

Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
30	11.48	11.06	14.03	12.97	20.41	18.28
35	12.08	11.65	14.24	13.39	21.26	19.13
40	12.76	12.16	17.43	15.52	28.06	24.23
45	15.31	13.86	22.74	19.56	34.43	29.76
50	18.03	15.90	28.69	24.87	50.58	42.93
55	24.91	19.90	44.42	33.79	82.46	59.93
60	37.66	27.29	75.23	51.22	141.96	91.81
65	57.98	38.94	119.43	72.04	226.96	134.73
70	98.95	61.89	205.71	117.09	398.23	222.28

Erie offers a multi-policy discount of up to 5% for anyone that purchases at least 100k in term insurance.

CAR THIEVES IN WINTER



Have YOU ever left your car unattended in the morning with the engine running to warm it up? Opportunistic thieves capitalize on this widespread winter habit by prowling neighbourhoods and stealing unattended, running vehicles.

How to Stop It

A thief needs only a small window of opportunity and because it can happen so quickly, preparation and vigilance are paramount.

- Carry your car keys wherever you go—never leave them in the ignition, even if only for a few seconds.
- Sit inside your car while it de-ices, never let it de-ice unattended.
- Lock and secure your vehicle when exiting it.
- Keep valuables locked inside the trunk and out of sight.
- Store important car documents and a spare key in your home or office, leaving them inside the car makes it easier for thieves to quickly sell your vehicle.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas near surveillance cameras.
- Use a garage to store your car.

Following these simple precautions, you can be sure your car and possessions stay safe during the winter.



Will Workers' Compensation Cover an Employee If They Get Injured While Working from Home?

If an employee is hurt on work premises, they're typically covered by the employer's workers' compensation policy. Workers' compensation provides coverage for injury or disease employees sustain in the course and scope of employment. It applies regardless of negligence, with workers' compensation laws varying by state.

Most telecommuters are still covered under their employers' workers' compensation coverage, whether full-time remote workers or part-time with a hybrid working model.

"It's important to remember that workers' compensation insurance isn't tied to a building," says Leo Heintz, vice president of commercial products at ERIE. "It follows you wherever you go, subject to the policy conditions, while you're working."



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PET OF THE MONTH: RINGO sent in by RENEE O

Send us a picture of YOUR pet, and you could

WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD

and get their picture in next month's newsletter.

Email your pictures to
service@mvpins.com

No pictures will be returned, and not all pictures will appear.
No purchase necessary. Contest open to everyone.



SHARE YOUR RECIPE WITH US AND WIN A GIFT CARD

One recipe will be chosen each month
to win a gift card

service@mvpins.com

INGREDIENTS/INSTRUCTIONS

- Boneless skinless chicken thighs.
- Onion.
- celery stalks, and carrots.
- Garlic.
- Chicken broth or homemade stock
- Dried Bay leaves.
- Egg noodles.
- Fresh Parsley

On a cold Winter day...there is nothing better than a tasty, hot bowl of Soup.

- Season the chicken with salt. Heat a large pot or Dutch oven over medium high heat.
- Add the oil, onion, celery, carrot and garlic and sauté until soft, 5 minutes.
- Add the chicken, chicken broth, 1/4 cup water, bay leaves and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper.
- Bring to a boil over high heat, then cover and reduce to a simmer. Cook until the chicken shreds easily with a fork, about 35 minutes.
- Discard the bay leaves, coarsely shred the chicken with two forks and return to the soup, add the noodles and cook according to the package directions. Garnish with parsley and serve.

MVP INSURANCE MVP OF THE GAME

Celebrating kids in sports.

To see past MVP's please go to:

<https://www.lcsportsnet.com/sponsor/mvp-insurance-mvp-of-the-game/>



Cash Stratton
19 carries, 161 yards,
3 touchdowns, and
a game-sealing
interception.



Rian Owens
16 kills, 7 aces, 2 blocks
in WPIAL first round,
five set victory

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