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Sally's Blog

Do you have enough home insurance coverage?

In today's era of escalating construction costs, it's a question worth asking. More to the point, how much would it take to reconstruct your home? According to a recent report from the insurance experts at Safeco, more than half (58%) of American homes are underinsured by an average of 21%.

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To be clear, it falls on the homeowner to make sure you're "fully insured" and "insured to value." In insurance jargon, that means you need enough insurance coverage to rebuild your home and replace your personal belongings in the event of total loss.

To determine how much coverage you require, consider the following factors relative to your home:

- Age of your home (older homes are usually more expensive to reconstruct than newer homes) and architectural style (contemporary, colonial, ranch, 2story)
- Features (fireplaces, cabinetry, built-ins, vaulted) ceilings)
- Type of flooring (hardwood, tile, natural stone, carpeting)
- Finishes (crown molding, window and floor trim, faux paint, wallpaper, wainscoting, chair rails, staircases etc)



- Recent improvements (remodeled kitchen or bath, recessed lighting, built-in cabinets)
- Finished basement
- New addition

Next up: determine what it would cost in today's dollars to replace your personal belongings. Consider the following:

- The basics (furniture, rugs, linens, kitchenware)
- Electronic devices and gadgets
- Your entire wardrobe
- Jewelry, medicines and personal effects
- Tools in your garage or workshop

Besides your home and everything in it, you also need to consider the structures surrounding your home. At today's prices, what would it cost to replace items such as:

- Fencing, detached garage, gazebo, barn, garden or storage shed
- In-ground swimming pool
- Recently repayed driveway or sidewalk

Lastly, if you're a passionate collector, consider upping your personal belongings coverage. The standard coverage that policies provide usually isn't enough to replace a valuable collection.

Overwhelmed? We can help you determine if your coverage is adequate.

If you need additional coverage, or want to consider a different carrier, we'll search the marketplace for the best possible coverage at the best possible rate.

Blog Archive

Questions? I've got answers. (303) 768-0000

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