



ROGERS & GRAY

# Educate yourself about your homeowners coverage

## By Rogers & Gray Insurance Company

Everyone knows that a homeowners policy is necessary to protect their house against a major loss like a fire or a hurricane, but there are many other property coverages you may also need. These are often provided as part of a package policy. It automatically provides coverage for any other structures on your premises, such as sheds, fences or pools. There is also coverage on the personal property of the owner, usually at a limit of 50 percent of whatever the limit is on the house.

The homeowners policy provides a limit for any extra expense you incur if you have a major loss and need to move out of your home until it has been rebuilt or repaired. (Condominium unit owners need to be especially careful that this limit is high enough, as the time to rebuild a multiunit building would be more than for a single-family home.) Another important protection is personal liability coverage. This is vital in case someone is injured on your premises and you are sued.

It is important to note that a homeowners policy does not cover damages due to a flood. It also does not cover damage caused by an earthquake, although this can be added by endorsement. There are many other coverage options, so be sure to discuss the policy limitations with your agent to assess what you might need.

Here on the coast, we have a problem due to the possibility of hurricanes. Many companies will not write business here at all, or they have stopped accepting new business. The policies in force will have either a wind deductible; a named storm deductible; or the best option, a hurricane deductible. These deductibles can be very high as they are usually a percentage of the limit on the house. Check your policy and be prepared for this should you have a claim of this type.

When considering coverage options, remember that your homeowners policy should protect you against a catastrophic loss; select your basic policy deductible accordingly. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium; so take the highest you can afford. Talk to your agent about other ways to save. You can often get an account credit when your automobile insurance is with the same company.

When dealing with homeowners insurance, you should look at the big picture and think in terms of the "worst-case scenario" so you are not caught short if a disaster occurs. Your insurance agent can help you understand the best options for your particular situation.

*To learn more about homeowner's insurance, or for a non-obligation quote, please contact the Personal Lines Sales Center at 888.790.3668.*

