



What to look for when buying house insurance

What you need to know

Whether you're looking to buy your first home or you're already on the property ladder, it's essential to protect your biggest asset with house insurance. We've put together some general information to help you choose what policy is right for your needs. It's important to do your own research so that you can choose the right policy for you.

What is house insurance?

Most house insurance covers sudden and accidental damage to your house. When you're comparing policies, make sure you check the policy wordings for more details.

What are some things to consider?

Sum insured - you'll need to choose the amount it would take to completely rebuild your home. Be sure to include all the features on your property, such as the driveway, retaining walls or pools. You can use the [Cordell sumsure calculator](#) to help you.

Excess - this is how much you need to pay if you make a claim and it's accepted.

Keys and locks cover - provides cover to change your locks if your keys are lost or stolen. Some insurance companies may charge an excess while others waive it for this type of claim.

Gradual damage - provides limited cover for loss or damage that happens over time. Damage from a leaking pipe may be an example of gradual damage. Cover is limited because gradual damage is not 'sudden and accidental'. Make sure you read the policy wording (including any limits) carefully as it will set out how much cover is available and when it will apply.

Temporary accommodation - this pays for your cost of temporary accommodation if your house is uninhabitable. This is important to keep in mind as the average new house build can take 6-12 months.

Reduced excess glass cover - glass claims are very common. For example, this could be due to a rugby ball kicked into a window. Some policies have a reduced excess for these types of losses.

Renovations - if you are renovating some insurers cover you for none or some of the works depending on what you are doing.

Explore your options with Tower

Tower has a range of house insurance policies, designed to look out for you with lots of great benefits. Get a quote online and compare us today!

- **Extended sum insured for fire** - If your house is destroyed by fire, this benefit gives you up to 20% more cover than your sum insured. Excludes fires following natural disasters.
- **One event, one excess** - if one event means you need to claim on multiple Tower car, house, contents, and boat policies, you'll only pay one excess. The highest excess applies.
- **Multi-policy discount** - save up to 20% when you buy multiple Tower car, house, contents and landlord policies online at once using our bundle builder. [Ts&Cs apply](#).
- **Earn Airpoints Dollars™** - take out any eligible Tower policy and you'll receive 1 Airpoints Dollar™ for every \$100 you spend on your premium. [Ts&Cs apply](#).
- **Manage your insurance 24/7 with My Tower** - register for our easy-to-use online self service portal My Tower, so you can update and keep track of your insurance cover online.