



Newsletter

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Renter's Insurance

Debunking Popular Myths

Renters insurance is an often-ignored insurance that covers everything from personal property to personal liability.

From MSN.com, here are four myths about renters insurance:

- My landlord's covered. In most cases, a landlord's insurance covers only structural damage to the building itself – and many landlord policies don't even go that far if the damage is caused by a tenant. If you leave the tub running and it turns your floor into cardboard and dribbles downstairs, damaging your neighbor's couch, you may be liable for the whole drippy mess.

- It's out of my price range. Is \$10 to \$20 per month too much? For lower rates, you can raise the deductible.

- I'm in a great building and I'm not worried about security. Renters insurance extends beyond on-premises theft and hazards.

- My stuff isn't really worth much. You might be surprised at how quickly all those books, CD's, and kitchen appliances add up in value.

Signs of Tree Trouble

Don't wait for the next big storm to discover problems. The winds that battered Northeast Ohio in September left a landscape littered with downed branches and toppled trees.

In some cases, the damage was unpreventable. But more often than not, the trees that suffered had been weakened earlier by disease, damage or structural problems.

One thing's certain: Tree-threatening weather will return, be it in the form of heavy snow, thick ice, or more high winds. So it's a good idea to evaluate your trees now for signs of problems.

Those trouble signs don't necessarily mean your tree needs to come down, but they may indicate the need to consult a qualified arborist. He or she can help you determine whether your tree poses a risk to property or people, and the arborist can help you get the tree into the best shape possible to meet the challenges ahead.

So get out your binoculars, take a walk around the yard and give your trees a good going-over. Here are some pointers on identifying warning signs and what you should look for.

- The leaves should be deep green and appropriately sized during the growing season. If a

tree's leaves are smaller than they have been in the past or turn yellowish before their time, it's a sign of trouble.

- If leaves are clustered on larger branches with few on the tree's smaller twigs, that could indicate root problems.

- Leaves that change color or drop too early are a sign of a tree under stress. So is unusually heavy fruiting or flowering. Sometimes a tree will send out a heavy flush of blossoms or fruit just before it dies. It's a last ditch effort to reproduce.

- Dead and decaying wood is weak wood, and it's likely to fail. Some decay, such as rotting branches, is easy to spot. Some, however, is hidden inside the tree. Cavities and sunken areas of bark might indicate decay. So might a big area of bare wood, such as where a branch was removed but the tree didn't heal over. To test such an area, tapping the trunk with a screwdriver handle is recommended. If the sound is hollow you might want to have the tree tested to determine how much good wood it contains.

- Branches should be attached to the trunk in U-shaped joints. A tight V-shaped branch attachment indicates weakness.



- Another sign of trouble is small branches called water sprouts that extend straight upward from a main branch. Those sprouts indicate the tree was pruned heavily and may be under stress.

- A tree that is leaning isn't necessarily unhealthy. But a tree that leans because of root damage could be in danger of falling. To tell whether leaning is a problem, look at the soil on the side opposite the direction the tree is leaning. Cracks in the soil, heaving soil or roots at the surface that are being pulled up by the tree are all red flags. So is a significant lean – say, more than 40 degrees.

- Broken branches and obvious cracks are signs of weakness. Cracks and splits can be caused by lightning strikes, the freezing and thawing of sap and the twisting of the trunk in high winds. Cracked wood is structurally compromised, and it's likely to fail under rough weather conditions.

- Look for damage from mowers and weed trimmers, a common injury that can introduce disease in trees. Lawn equipment can damage the bark on the trunk or roots, disrupting the tree's protective layer and making the tree susceptible to fungi.

Please discuss with your agent any questions you might have regarding fallen trees and debris removal as coverage varies by company and by policy form.

“Know Your Stuff” New Software Makes Home Inventory Easier than Ever

To encourage consumers to create a home inventory, the Insurance Information Institute (III) has developed a software program called “Know Your Stuff”. The software makes it easier than ever to enter, edit, print, and store a home inventory. It can store multiple photographs of rooms and objects, and makes handling large inventory files fast, stable, and secure.

The software allows you to organize your possessions room by room and provides lists of possessions that are typically found in a room. It also has the capacity to store digital photographs so that you can document your possessions visually. Both Windows and Mac OS versions of “Know Your Stuff” are available for free download by accessing this link – <http://knowyourstuff.org/index.html>.



At this time of thanksgiving we pause to count our blessings. The freedom of this great country in which we live.

It's opportunity for achievement. The friendship and confidence you have shown in us. For all of these things we are deeply thankful. Our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Umbrella Liability

People are suing each other today more than ever.

Verdicts amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars are being awarded by juries in increasing numbers. An accident that results in serious injury or death could put your financial well-being at risk. For most people, the number one asset is their home. How tragic to lose your home because you didn't carry enough insurance.

You can minimize this risk by adding personal umbrella insurance to take over where your auto and homeowners coverage ends. Depending on the situation, annual premiums start as low as \$150 for coverage ranging from \$1 million to \$10 million. The value of this coverage is unbeatable.

Umbrella policies take over where your basic auto or home policy leaves off. Most companies typically require a minimum limit of \$300,000 on your primary policy to write an umbrella.

We strongly recommend you consider adding this valuable coverage to your insurance package portfolio.

Please call us with any questions and to receive a quote. We look forward to hearing from you.

P.S. – Umbrellas Can Save Houses!

Customer Referral Program

We are experiencing continued success with our customer referral program and would like to thank those customers that have participated.

The winners of the \$50.00 gas cards are: from Lodi, **Lindsay Blake** and Pattie Guyer. The winners from Wadsworth are **Craig St. Jean** and **Ralph Cummings**.

Remember, a \$15 gas card for each referral and you are automatically entered in the quarterly drawing.

Our Holiday Schedule

The Lodi and Wadsworth offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27, Thursday, December 25, Friday December 26, and Thursday, Jan 1. Emergency numbers are available on our voice mail system.

Our Privacy Policy at Padgett-Young

Information We Collect

You are our primary source of information about you. For example, we receive nonpublic personal information about you (such as your name, address, social security number, and marital status) from applications or other forms that you submit to us. However, we also may collect nonpublic personal information from sources other than you, such as information about your transactions with us or with others, and information which we receive from third parties, including consumer reporting agencies (i.e. Motor vehicle reports).

Information We Disclose

We do not share nonpublic personal information about you with anyone other than as permitted by law. The law permits us to disclose your nonpublic personal information without your authorization, such as information, which is necessary to process insurance transactions that you, request or to service your insurance policies.

Information Security

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information in order to provide products and services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards consistent with applicable state law to guard your nonpublic personal information.