

What's UP with Flood Insurance?

Generally speaking, damage caused by wind-driven or falling rain that enters your home through an opening is covered under your home policy, but damage from rising water/flood damage is not. You can buy flood insurance to fill that gap.

What you should know:

- You can add a flood insurance endorsement to your policy or buy flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”).
- There is generally a 10-30 day waiting period from the date you buy it to the date it kicks in.
- Flood insurance can be very affordable but the cost depends on where your home is located.
- To know what your flood risk is, ask an insurance agent or call the NFIP at 877-336-2627.
- If you have a mortgage and your home is in a “Special Hazard Flood Zone” your lender will require flood insurance.
- An NFIP policy provides \$250,000 max to repair flood damage to your home.
- An NFIP policy provides \$100,000 max for belongings but not automatically. You have to ask and pay for this additional coverage.
- An NFIP policy will NOT cover temporary rent and expenses if you cannot live in your home after a flood.



Questions to ask your agent:

- How much will it cost to insure my home and belongings for flood damage?
- Can you help me compare the cost, coverages and options in an NFIP versus adding coverage to my existing policy through a "flood endorsement"?
- Does a "flood endorsement" insure my home for more than \$250,000? Will it cover temporary rent expenses?

This info is provided by the nonprofit consumer org United Policyholders and the following organizations:

