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Mortgages



Guide to Optional Insurance Extras

Home insurance is essential for protecting your most valuable assets: your property and belongings. However, what you may be unaware of is that a standard insurance policy may not include cover for all of your specific needs.

Optional extras are add-ons that can be added to a standard policy to tailor it precisely to your needs, ensuring comprehensive protection against various risks. Here, we explore the additional cover options available to you, to help you decide which ones might be worth considering based on your circumstances.

Why tailor your home insurance policy?

Every home and every homeowner are unique, meaning that a one-size-fits-all standard policy will rarely tick all the boxes you need for adequate cover. Tailoring your home insurance with optional extras can give you valuable peace of mind by covering the specific risks that are important to you. You might have valuable items that need special protection, or you may be looking to protect your belongings against accidents, or outside of your property. Whatever your particular requirements, adding optional extras can make your policy more robust, eliminating the possibility of nasty surprises.

Key optional extras to consider

Full accidental damage	While standard policies may offer limited accidental damage cover (although this is by no means guaranteed), opting for full accidental damage cover provides broader protection. This extra will cover you for unintended damage – for example, if your child spills paint on your carpet or somebody kicks a football through your window. It's a particularly useful add-on if you have children or pets, because as we all know, accidents happen!
Personal belongings away from home	Standard home insurance typically covers items within the home, but what about when you're on the go? Personal belongings away from home cover extends this protection to items you take out of the house, such as mobile phones, laptops or jewellery. This is particularly valuable if you travel frequently or carry expensive items with you.

Bicycle cover	If you own one or more bicycles, this optional extra ensures they are covered against theft or damage, both at home and while you're out. Given the high value of some bicycles, especially those used for sports or commuting, this can be an essential addition to any keen cyclist's policy.
High-risk/ high-value items	Items like jewellery, artwork or antiques may not be fully covered under a standard policy. High-value item cover allows you to insure these possessions separately, so that your payout is not limited to the standard policy limit and ensuring you receive their full value in case of loss, theft or damage.
Legal expenses	Legal expenses cover provides financial support if you need to take legal action or defend against claims related to your home. This might include disputes with neighbours, property damage or even employment issues. It's a valuable addition for anybody who is concerned about – or who could not afford – potential legal costs.
Home emergency cover	This add-on covers the cost of emergency repairs, such as fixing a burst pipe or restoring power after an electrical fault. Home emergency cover ensures that you can address urgent issues quickly, without worrying about immediate out-of-pocket expenses.
Student cover	If you have children living away at university, student cover can protect their belongings in halls of residence or student accommodation. This extension of your home insurance provides peace of mind that their items are protected against theft or damage, even after they've flown the nest.



Less common optional extras (that can nevertheless be valuable)

Key care	Key care cover ensures you're protected if your keys are lost or stolen. This cover can include the cost of locksmith services, new locks and even replacement keys.
Host insurance	If you occasionally rent out your property through platforms like Airbnb, host insurance can provide protection against damage or liability claims arising from guest stays.
Excess protection	Excess protection covers the cost of your policy excess if you make a claim, ensuring you're not out of pocket when you need to make a claim on your insurance.

What isn't covered by home insurance

Whether you choose to include optional extras or not, there are some scenarios that home insurance simply won't cover.

Wear and tear	One of the main reasons for rejected home insurance claims is that the damage to your home or possessions is the result of natural wear and tear that is inevitable over time. For example, if damage to your home is caused by a leaky roof that has simply deteriorated with time and due to the elements, it will likely be put down to wear and tear and you won't be able to claim.
Underinsurance	If your maximum policy payout will not cover the full value of damage to your home or possessions, this is called underinsurance. No matter how valid your claim, your policy will only pay out up to the sum you're insured for, so you might find yourself out of pocket if you don't have sufficient cover.
Omitting information	If you omit information about your property and circumstances from your insurance application, whether deliberately or accidentally, you could find that your claim is rejected.

Securing the protection that works for you

Customising your home insurance policy with optional extras is a smart way to ensure comprehensive protection for your home and belongings. However, choosing the right extras requires careful consideration of your individual needs and circumstances. We are here to help you navigate your options and make informed decisions that offer full protection and greater peace of mind.

Contact us today to discuss your home insurance needs and find out how we can help you put together a personalised policy that offers the protection you deserve.

As with all insurance policies, conditions and exclusions will apply

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