

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 and shop around 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.

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.

House under minor alteration – extra cover to protect your home and renovation materials while it's undergoing non-structural renovations that don't require building consent.

Gale, windstorm, hurricane, cyclone (optional benefit) – provides cover for the loss or damage to your house cause by gale, windstorm, hurricane or cyclone.

Earthquake (optional benefit) – provides cover for the loss or damage to your house cause by an earthquake, volcanic eruption, geothermal or hydrothermal activity or tsunami.

Explore your options with Tower

Tower has a range of house insurance policies, designed to suit your needs. Get a quote and compare us today!

One event, one excess - if one event means you need to claim on multiple Tower car, house or contents policies, you'll only pay one excess. The highest excess applies.

Multi-policy discount - save up to 20% when you buy multiple eligible house, car, or contents policies online at once using our bundle builder. T&Cs apply.

No claims bonus - If you haven't had a claim with us (or another insurer) during the last year of your insurance, you'll receive a discount on your premium.

Dedicated to the Pacific - we have been in the Pacific for over 140 years. Starting in New Zealand, Tower now cares for seven other countries across the Pacific too - with friendly, local teams ready to help when you need it.

Any questions? We're here to help

Phone: **+682 22713**

Email: **info@towerinsurance.co.ck**

Website: **towerinsurance.co.ck**

Disclaimer: The information in this guide is not intended to be financial advice This is a summary only. For all benefits, please make sure you read the policy wording to understand the terms, conditions, limits and exclusions that may apply.

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