



The First Ten Plays

DISASTER INSURANCE*

- First, learn about the risks in your area, your building, and your home site.
- Talk to an insurance agent about the insurance coverage that is available for your area. Get several opinions from independent agents
- Look at quotes using online sources to balance direct quotes from agents. Try Hometown Quotes: <https://www.hometownquotes.com/>
Try netQuote: <http://www.netquote.com>
- Once you have an insurance policy, be sure to read and understand exactly what it covers. Most policies cover damage from wind and rain, but you may have to add additional coverage or pay higher rates in states with elevated hurricane damage. Do you need terrorism coverage?
- If you are in the 100-year flood plain get flood insurance. If you have a mortgage you are required to carry this insurance if you live in a designated Special Flood Hazard Area. It is obtained through the National Flood Insurance Program (<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>). This insurance covers up to \$250,000 for a single-family home and up to \$100,000 for its contents. Also note that flood maps are updated and you may find you are suddenly inside or now out of a flood plain.
- If you need earthquake insurance, evaluate the policies that are available. 39 states have a medium to high potential for quakes, and roughly 90 percent of all Americans live in areas considered seismically active. Some states, like California, offer it through a pool managed by the State (www.earthquakeauthority.com). As with any insurance, look at the deductibles you must reach before you receive coverage for losses. Get details on what the earthquake insurance covers. The policy should cover the cost of replacing or repairing any property damaged in a quake.
- Evaluate extra coverage for nonattached garages, coverage of the contents of your home or apartment, and the size of the deductible you pay before coverage applies. Does your coverage include costs of losses for items in public storage?
- Get pet insurance. It just makes sense and if your pet is injured in a disaster in can save huge costs at the veterinarian.
- If you have many assets, consider full replacement coverage.
- Review your policies every year as your assets or risks change.

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** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*