

Is Flood Insurance Included in Your Homeowners Policy?

When it comes to insurance, there are many words and policy choices that can be easily misunderstood. A lot of customers aren't aware of what their policies cover and don't cover, some don't know what their deductibles and limits are, and others aren't certain whether or not unique circumstances are covered in their auto or homeowners policies. All of these subjects are simple to address with a phone call to your insurance agency or a fast skim of your insurance policy.

But not all insurance misinterpretations are innocuous. If you take for granted an accident is protected by your current car or home insurance policy and it actually isn't, you could leave yourself and your family open to financial peril that you just can't support on your own. One constant source of this type of situation involves flood insurance.

Many consumers believe that flood insurance is contained in their home insurance policy. Unfortunately, this belief is so widespread that many policy holders don't question their agent or insurance company if their homeowners insurance policy will insure the damages related with flood waters-they just think that it will. This belief can turn out to be a very costly error after a flood actually takes place because assuming that their home insurance policy provides flood coverage prohibits them from taking the actions crucial to finding out the reality about flood insurance and protect their family and their assets accordingly.

Now that we all know that homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flood waters, let's define what actually constitutes as flood waters. The National Flood Insurance Program identifies a flood as:

"A flood is a general and temporary condition where two or more acres of normally dry land or two or more properties are inundated by water or mudflow."

The meaning of flood is simple to comprehend, but the reason that many homeowners think it's covered in their home insurance policy is because many of the episodes that can cause floods cause other damages that ARE protected under a homeowners insurance policy. For instance, a hurricane may cause wind damage to your house that is insured in your policy, but it may also cause normally dry ground to be temporarily inundated by water, which could run into your house and damage your floors and furniture-but because those are flood waters, they will only be covered if you have a flood policy.

So make sure you have a flood policy in secured today. Whether you reside in a flood zone or not, it's protection that isn't covered in your homeowners policy but needs to be in place to protect your family.