



OBERRYMAN
INSURANCE AGENCY

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NEWSALERT

Important Coverage

Women Often Do Not Have Enough Life Insurance

NUMEROUS STUDIES have found that women do not carry enough life insurance, or often don't have coverage that would replace their contributions to the household. If a woman who stays at home to care for her family dies suddenly, there is still the need for childcare expenses and possible costs to keep up the house while her spouse continues working. As well, if the wife was working, the loss of her income will usually have a significant impact on the family's finances.

Despite these truths, many women and couples do not realize how important it is to buy a life insurance policy that covers the wife. According to a 2023 Mutual of Omaha study, 37% of women own a life insurance policy, compared to 50% of men.

The value of a woman's work

Life insurance is typically purchased to replace income if a spouse passes away. These days, while the disparity between men's and women's salaries continues to shrink, but as more women go to college than men, those numbers may flip soon.

But when deciding how much insurance to purchase, you should take into account a wife's full financial and non-financial contributions. Even with women earning less

on average, working women say they do most of the housework compared to their husbands.

Coverage shortfall

According to one study, 79% of women said that their family's lives would be substantially worse in the event of their death.

The reality is that the loss of someone who provides all or most of the housework and childcare will create a significant financial burden on the surviving family members, making life insurance an important purchase.

As well, one spouse's earnings matter greatly even if both are working and she earns less than her husband.

If you are a working woman or a stay-at-home mom, you should call us to evaluate your coverage to ensure it's adequate in light of your contributions to the household.

And if you have none at all, you should explore your options. ❖



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Seven Things to Do after a Hit-and-Run Accident

MOST OF the time, if you've been in a collision, the other party stays put so that you can exchange insurance information and wait for police or emergency services if there is a dispute or injury.

But on occasion, the other driver flees the scene, leaving you likely frazzled and scrambling. If you carry uninsured driver's coverage, the costs will be covered by your insurer. However, there are things you should and shouldn't do if you've been involved in a hit-and-run accident.

Whatever you do, do not follow or chase the fleeing driver. If you also leave the scene, you may miss out on gathering eyewitness accounts of the accident. The police may also question who is really at fault.

Also, chasing down the other driver puts you at risk of having a violent confrontation. Sometimes the fleeing driver may have a reason to flee the scene, such as an outstanding arrest warrant or perhaps they were breaking other laws when the accident occurred, like transporting drugs or driving while drunk. ❖

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

1. First, get as much information as you can about the vehicle that hit you, such as:
 - Model and make
 - Color
 - License plate number
 - Direction the other vehicle was headed when fleeing.
2. Call the police and file a report. The official accident report will help police look for the missing driver and will be useful when you file your accident claim.
3. Next, try to find witnesses and ask for their names and contact information. Ask them if they can supply additional information about the accident. If they give you or the police a statement, be sure to get their names and contact details.
4. Write down the time and location of the accident.
5. Take pictures of the accident scene.
6. Take pictures of your car and all the damage, especially if another vehicle's paint is visible on it. This will help you prove that you are not attempting to defraud your insurance company.
7. Call your insurance company and report the claim.





How to Stay Safe on the Road This Winter

THOUSANDS OF people are injured or killed every winter because of overconfidence or unpreparedness while driving in dangerous conditions.

It is important for everyone to keep safety in mind while driving in wintry conditions, which can bring with them slippery roads, poor visibility and unpredictable drivers.

Driving in snow, sleet and rain can be perilous, but understanding how to drive in these conditions can help save lives and reduce the chances of an accident.

Here's how you can tackle winter driving with ease.

At the start of the season:

- Make sure the vehicle has enough antifreeze and windshield washer fluid.
- Check the tread on the tires to be sure it is thick enough.
- Put a blanket, first aid kit, dry food, clothes and a gallon of water in the car.
- Carry emergency or repair equipment, including flashlights, flares, fire extinguisher, jumper cables, shovel, snow brush and ice scraper.
- Also carry several extra flashlight batteries.

Driving tips

Proceed slowly – Always drive slowly when the roads may be icy or wet. Speeding is the main cause of accidents during the winter. Remember that having a four-wheel-drive vehicle does not make it safer to drive faster on ice.

Do not accelerate suddenly or change lanes unnecessarily.

Don't tailgate – Stay at least three to five car lengths behind the driver ahead. Tailgating can lead to accidents, especially in stop-and-go traffic that is moving slowly on slick roads.

Don't use cruise control – This is another important tip to remember. When cruise control is activated and the car hits a slick spot on the road, it will cause the wheels to spin and the vehicle to speed up. This can cause the vehicle to go off the road or crash into another one. It is best to simply turn off cruise control in the winter.

Watch out for black ice – Learn how to identify black ice, which is thin and virtually invisible on asphalt and often resembles a puddle of water.

There are signs that may indicate the presence of black ice, including shady spots, under bridges or on overpasses, ice build-up on the vehicle's mirrors and antenna, and frost on trees and road signs.

How to navigate black ice

- If you start to slide, don't hit your brakes and don't panic.
- If you have front-wheel drive or rear-wheel drive with ABS and traction control, look for an open space and plan to travel in that direction. Accelerate just a little and steer gently in the direction of the open space.
- If you have a rear-wheel drive without ABS or traction control, head toward an open space, but instead of applying pressure to the accelerator, ease off and don't brake as you steer to the open space.

Plan ahead – Be sure to allow plenty of time to arrive at the destination and avoid speeding. If you are taking a longer trip, you should carry emergency or repair equipment, as detailed in the box to the left. Also, don't forget to carry a phone charger and non-perishable snacks.

You can also carry abrasive materials like sand, kitty litter and even extra floor mats that can be used for traction in snow or on ice if your vehicle gets stuck.

The final piece

Besides understanding how to drive safely in winter conditions, accidents can still happen. That's why it's important that you carry auto insurance with liability limits that can pay for damage to any expensive automobile you may have crashed into, or to cover medical expenses of third parties if you are found at fault. ❖





How to Take the Ultimate Home Inventory

WOULD YOU be able to list everything that was damaged, destroyed or lost in your house or apartment if you had to file a claim with your insurance company?

Trying to remember everything as you are dealing with the mental trauma of your abode being destroyed is not an easy task. You would have a thousand things on your mind, like finding your most important personal documents and family heirlooms, in addition to trying to arrange a place to live.

But you can avoid potential distress — and the risk of your insurer disputing the claim — by preparing a detailed home inventory.

More than 75% of U.S. homeowners don't have an inventory, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. And of those who do have one, they generally don't keep their records up to date.

Having a home inventory can make filing a claim much easier, and it increases the chances the getting the claim paid, too. Also, if you prepare an inventory it will help you assign value to your possessions, which in turn can help you and the insurer decide how much insurance you actually need.

It may sound like a daunting task to just get started, but fortunately TWS Home Inventory and Asset Management Group has created this handy list to help you take stock of your stuff.

Read your policy and discuss it with us

You need to understand your policy so you can know if you are you covered for the replacement value of your possessions or only actual cash value, or whether you need any special riders or endorsements for specialty items, such as:

- Jewelry,
- Musical instruments,
- Firearms,
- Expensive sporting goods like scuba gear or golf clubs.

Take photos of the outside of the home

Shoot the property from all sides, including any landscaping, outdoor furniture and accouterments.

Take photos of each room from all angles

Make sure that your pictures cover every piece of furniture, art and other decorations in every room.

Open every closet, cupboard and drawer

Go through all the places that you keep your possessions and, if you find anything of value, document it. Document when and where you got it and how much you paid for it.

If you haven't gotten in the habit of doing so, keep receipts for all of your big purchases.

Don't forget to photograph and document your clothes. If you have any expensive items, like fur coats, business suits or fancy dresses, take separate photos of them.

Note the model, serial number of electronic items

Take pictures and list the details of computers, mobile phones, tablets, TVs, stereo systems, etc.

Pay extra attention to china, crystal and silver

If you have a fancy set of china and cutlery, place it all on a table and take a picture. Take pics of the front and back of your plates, to show the brand name and the pattern.

Cover the garage as well

Often people have more valuables in their garage than any other place in their home. Again take pictures of everything in there — your tools, equipment, sporting goods, bikes, etc.

Photograph family heirlooms

Include rare items you have inherited when taking pictures. Even though insurance can't replace the sentimental value, it may replace the cost of those items.

Scan all receipts

Get into the habit of scanning your receipts and taking a picture of the item to keep with your receipt. Keep things organized with one folder for each room.

Keep inventory off-premises

You should have a home inventory at home, but also keep one off your premises. These days that's quite easy, since you can store it on the cloud with a free service like [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com). ❖

