

AUTO | HOME | PACKAGE PLUS

The Changing Cost of Insurance



Why homeowners rates may be trending higher

If you've recently received a quote for a new or renewal homeowners policy, it's possible that your premium is higher than you paid last year.

There are many reasons for this. You may have recently moved to a much older home or one that is further from a fire station, for example.

And, the new "normal" extreme weather pattern and subsequent growing number of claims result in higher premiums for some of us, too.

The escalating cost of insurers' insurance

And, while weather-related losses have driven up the cost of insurance for consumers like you, it's also driven up the cost of reinsurance for insurance companies.

Insurers usually buy reinsurance to cover losses over a certain cumulative dollar amount. If the claims a single insurer suffers pierces that threshold, the reinsurer would cover the amount over the threshold.

Because of the new normal severe weather pattern and resulting high number of big claims, reinsurers have been raising their rates, increasing costs for insurance companies, which in turn raises consumers' homeowners premium.

Building expenses are on the increase

Prices for building materials such as cement, lumber, copper and aluminum have risen regularly, making the cost of repairing or rebuilding a home more expensive. To help determine a policy's premium, Kemper Preferred uses an industry standard tool called 360Value®, which provides market-based costs for replacing residential structures, including material and labor costs.

You get what you pay for

If you do receive a higher new or renewal quote on homeowners insurance, you may be tempted to shop around. If you do, it's important to understand what your current policy covers. Some insurers are selling policies with lower premiums, but with stripped down coverages.

Your Independent Agent can help you find the best insurance solution for your situation so you can rest easy knowing you're covered.

Your student's away? Here's how you benefit

If you have a child returning to college this fall, you most likely have significant expenses. And, maybe looking to save where you can. Did you know that you may be eligible for a discount on your Kemper Preferred Auto policy if your teen is away at school?

The discount may be up to 20 percent* if the student resides at an educational institution more than 100 miles from where you keep your auto.

There are many other ways you can save on your auto insurance as well. You may be eligible for discounts* on your policy if you have:

- Anti-lock brakes
- Anti-theft devices such as a hood lock and alarm or disabling device
- Completed a driver training course
- A student driver in good academic standing
- More than one vehicle on the policy
- A companion Home policy with Kemper Preferred

To learn if discounts are available for your policy, contact your Independent Agent.

Reminder on how to report claims

As the hurricane season kicks up over the next few months, we would like to remind you that if you suffer a loss, you have several options for reporting claims:

- Call Kemper Preferred directly 24/7 at 888.252.2799
- Visit kemperpreferred.com/Claims Center/Report a Claim
- Contact your Independent Agent

If you have a loss, your Independent Agent and Kemper Preferred are committed to making the reporting and settlement process as easy as possible for you. Contact your Independent Agent if you have any questions.

The time to inventory is now

For many people, creating a home inventory is one of those "someday" projects. But since we're well into storm season, there's no better time than now to get started.

The reason you want to develop an inventory of your home's contents now is that if disaster does strike, it will help you get your claim settled faster. Trying to come up with this same list after a storm or fire destroys your home and what's in it would be much more difficult.

There are various home inventory apps on the market to help you, or you could videotape or photograph your items. Or you could simply record your possessions in a notebook. Whatever method you choose, you should also note where you bought the item, and its brand and model number, and keep track of the receipt. You might also consider using Kemper Preferred's **Personal Property Analyzer**,™ which allows you to quickly and easily estimate the value of your home's contents.

Our Package Plus** Home and Auto insurance product automatically includes Replacement Cost Contents, which gives you the means to replace an item that's damaged in a covered loss. You can use our Personal Property Analyzer to determine whether you have enough insurance to cover your belongings. Consider this: claim statistics show that up to 30 percent of the time, consumers don't purchase enough replacement cost protection for their home's contents.

Contact your Independent Agent for more information about increasing your insurance coverage.

Premium bill pay the easy way

With so many demands on our time, it can be easy to lose track of bill due dates. That's why Kemper Preferred provides an option to pay your premium by Automatic Payment. With this payment method, we automatically deduct premium payments from your bank account according to your regular payment schedule.

So for example, if you currently pay monthly, the withdrawals will be made on a monthly basis. And you can choose the date the payment will be made.***

With Automatic Payment, you save on postage and can feel confident that your insurance payments are made on time. The installment fee is lower, too. Simply visit [kemperpreferred.com/Information Center/](http://kemperpreferred.com/Information Center/Register Your Policy)**Register Your Policy** and follow the instructions.

Back-to-school savings online

Getting your child ready for school can be expensive. Do your shopping online through our **Kemper Perks** program and save a bundle on school supplies, clothing and other back-to-school items from thousands of merchants.

Kemper Perks is free, and sign up is easy. Register and start saving today!