

Landslide insurance

Is it right for you?

What is landslide insurance?

Landslide insurance is coverage you buy in addition to a homeowner or renter's policy. Your standard homeowner policy will not cover damage caused by land movement or a landslide due to:

- Rain runoff
- Snowmelt
- Flooding
- Earthquakes

Landslides occur when the movement or destabilization of land is due either to erosion or an accumulation of water.

What it covers

There are two types of landslide insurance:

- 1. Content coverage:** This is a special rider for your homeowner policy that includes coverage for the contents of your home from all perils, including earth movement. This rider only covers contents not the structure. Some insurance companies may not offer this option, so you may need to shop around.
- 2. Separate earth-movement coverage:** This coverage includes structures, such as your house or any other unattached buildings on your property. It's commonly called a "Difference in Conditions" (DIC) policy. DIC policies include coverage for landslide, mudflow, earthquake and flood. Your agent or broker may be able to get you this coverage in the surplus line market. These are companies that insure risks the industry traditionally doesn't insure.

What it doesn't cover

It doesn't cover your vehicles. Your auto insurance policy should cover them, provided you bought optional comprehensive coverage with your auto policy.

Who needs it

If you live in an area prone to landslides, such as above or below a cliff or hillside, you should think seriously about buying landslide insurance to protect your home. Also, if your home's located in an area subject to heavy rain or snow, you may also wanted to consider buying it.

Continued on back

How insurers determine how much you'll pay in premiums

- **Your home's location.** Is your home in a landslide-prone area? If so, your premiums will be higher.
- **Your home's age.** Premiums can be higher for older homes.
- **Your home's construction.** How large is your home and how many stories does it have? Is it wood frame or brick; does it have brick veneer? Does it have a basement or is it on a concrete slab foundation?
- **The cost to rebuild your home.** You have the option to insure your home and its contents for replacement cost or actual cash value. Replacement is the cost to rebuild or repair your home using materials of similar type and quality. Actual cash value pays you for your loss, but usually it doesn't pay enough to fully replace or your repair your property.
- **The deductible(s).** A larger deductible means you'll pay for more of the loss. It also means you pay a lower premium.

Tips for buying landslide insurance

- Just like earthquake and flood insurance, you can't buy landslide coverage once an incident occurs or the threat of an incident may happen. So it's best to discuss your options with an insurance agent BEFORE a potential threat.
- You can shop for quotes with other insurers to get the best price. Just make sure you're comparing the same or similar coverage.
- Discuss your personal situation and needs with the agent.
- Ask the agent how much the deductible is and the maximum amount of benefit they'll pay for a given situation or occurrence.
- Ask what the policy specifically covers and doesn't cover - and read the fine print!
- Find out if the insurer and agent are licensed in Washington state at www.insurance.wa.gov.

Have insurance questions?
www.insurance.wa.gov
1-800-562-6900

