

In Glenda's column last week, she began a list of some important questions that should concern you as a home insurance purchaser. They apply whether you are buying a new policy or renewing an existing one. In addition to the type of coverage and adequate replacement cost for dwelling, outbuildings and contents, some other common issues are:

- What deductible options are available?

A deductible is a standard clause on most insurance policies. This is what you would pay first in the event of a loss, with the insuring company covering the balance. A standard deductible with many companies is \$500. Choosing a higher deductible may result in premium savings. Lower deductibles are often available at an additional cost.

- What are my obligations if I am temporarily (i.e. vacation) away from my home?

- If I move away from my home and leave it vacant while it is up for sale, will my insurance still be valid?

- Will my contents be covered during the move to another location?

- Is my policy affected if I start a babysitting service or another homebased business?

- Will keeping a few chickens, or maybe a horse, make a difference?

- If I make a claim, will my premiums go up?

- Am I eligible for any special discounts?

These situations may be handled in various ways by different insurance companies. Your broker, having a thorough knowledge of the conditions and requirements of the products available, will be able to provide the answers and the solutions.

People often discover the benefits of dealing through one broker for all their various insurance needs. If your broker is informed of all your exposures and requirements, the possibility of overlapping coverage, or omissions of coverage, is greatly reduced. In some instances, "package" policy discounts may also be available.

Most insurance brokers are user friendly... try us !!!