

Home and renters insurance are essential for protecting your assets against damage or loss due to disasters or theft. Home insurance covers the physical structure of your home and personal belongings, and typically includes personal liability coverage for injuries occurring on your property. However, it is important to note that home insurance policies generally exclude coverage for earthquakes and floods, which require separate policies. Additionally, most policies contain an occupancy clause that may void coverage if the home is unoccupied for an extended period, such as during military deployment. Homeowners renting out their properties can require tenants to obtain renters insurance to mitigate liability risks. Renters insurance protects personal property from damage or theft and includes personal liability coverage, but does not cover injuries related to the home's structure.

Home insurance is often mandatory for homeowners, especially those with mortgages, while renters insurance is advisable for all tenants to safeguard personal belongings. Service members living in dorms or barracks should also consider renters insurance. Some policies may cover belongings in transit, which is beneficial for military families frequently relocating.

When obtaining home or renters insurance, options include guaranteed replacement cost insurance, which covers all repair and rebuilding costs beyond the policy limit, and actual cash value insurance, which accounts for depreciation. Replacement cost insurance covers the full cost of replacing items without depreciation. Personal liability coverage addresses negligence-related injuries to others. Riders can be added to policies for additional coverage, while exclusions specify risks not covered by the policy, limiting the insurer's liability.

To determine the appropriate coverage, assess your assets and document belongings with photos and videos for future claims. After establishing coverage needs, compare costs and policies, ensuring you understand the details of what is covered. Look for policies that provide necessary coverage at affordable premium rates. For assistance with budgeting for insurance, consider

consulting a personal financial manager or a counselor at a Military and Family Support Center.