

Cathell Insurance & Financial Services

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Newsletter

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10 Tips on Homeowners Insurance

Just because you need home insurance to complete your mortgage, doesn't mean that once you sign on the dotted line, you're finished with it. Follow these tips to make sure that your home insurance policy is the right fit for you.

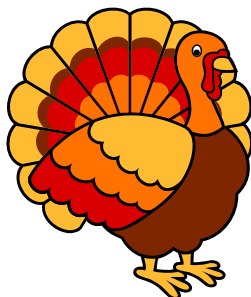
10. There are different types of homeowner insurance policies and depending where you live, different items are covered (or not covered).

Make sure that your home is covered if that stream beside you overflows

9. In general, lower deductibles mean higher premiums but less out of pocket costs if something happens
8. Discounts. By staying with an insurance company for longer periods of times or using the same company to also insure your vehicle, you can save money on your insurance
7. Typical homeowners insurance doesn't cover your car in the driveway or the termites that are attacking your walls
6. Buying a home security system can help you save money on your policy
5. Many homeowners are underinsured. Make sure you check your insurance policy every year and update it after major renovations or additions
4. Talk to your insurance agent or us about insurance to cover floods or earthquakes. Your policy may not have these extra items covered
3. Take a yearly home inventory. This will help you if a disaster strikes by showing or listing all your items and their value
2. If you want to be able to cover Great-Grandma's pearl earrings, make sure you talk to your agent or professional to make sure you have the proper coverage for them. Typical policies don't cover expensive jewelry, paintings, photography equipment or musical instruments

And the **number 1 tip** on your homeowners insurance: Make sure you read your policy. Just because it's thick doesn't mean that it isn't important.

http://www.nationwide.com/nw/newsroom/on-your-side/home-insurance/home-insurance.htm?oys=home_insurance110107&pos=4



Save Some Time in the Spring and Winterize Your Boat

As the leaves change and the weather gets cooler, you know it's time. As much as you may dread it, it's time to put your boat away for the winter. However, if you don't prepare your boat for the winter, you could end up doing a lot of extra work to get back on the water in the spring.



The best way to winterize your boat is to check your owner's manual for their recommendations. Some general tips include:

- Flushing your engine with fresh water
- Changing the oil in your engine and transmission, and replacing the oil filter
- Emptying your fuel lines. If you wait until spring, old gasoline in your engine could cause all sorts of problems. Adding stabilizer may help too
- Running fogging oil through the engine to help protect the internal surfaces of the carburetor and cylinders
- Touching-up any dents, scratches, and other damage on the outside of your boat to help minimize rust and keep it looking its best
- Cleaning the interior and checking to make sure that you've removed your valuables. Don't forget to take your:
 - Electronics
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Extra food
- Covering your boat to store it somewhere through the cold months

Remember that though it may be sad to hug your boat goodbye for the season, you need to prepare it for the spring. The more you do now, the less you'll have to when spring rolls around.

For more information about how to winterize your boat for the season visit the [Boat Owners Association of America website](#).

<http://www.nationwide.com/nw/newsroom/press-releases/boat-winterizing.htm?oys=boat-winterizing110107&pos=2>

Interest Rates Dropped for the 2nd Consecutive Time

With the Fed Rate dropping for the second time, the government is trying to help spark the economy again. As the interest rates rose, Americans responded and slowed refinancing and purchases causing turmoil in the housing market. It will be a while before everyone starts to get serious about buying or reifying again. Mortgagees have tightened their belts on issuing money. The 'no docs' have been eliminated from a majority of the mortgage companies as this was one of the factors in qualifying prospects and stretching them to the max allowing for little to no room for other expenses. As a result, when ARM's are renewing at higher rates the result is a higher payment coupled with higher taxes and insurance causing an additional amount to be paid.

The government is also very concerned about those who purchased ARM's in the past three to five years. This year was the year that they started to renew and there are tens of thousands of homeowners that are filing for bankruptcy. They have issued advisory's to mortgage reps suggestion that everyone with an ARM be reviewed and try to help find ways to make sure that they do not got bankrupt. The savings in lower interest rates are not as attractive as they used to be since the spread in points is a narrow margin.

We have reviewed all of our ARM's that were processed through our office and are happy to report that everyone has followed their plan and are a head of the game through the planning that was put in place before the ARM was purchased.

Our office would like to extend our services to anyone else who has a mortgage concern to contact Norm and discuss your situation confidentially to see if your mortgage is working for you or if you need to look at refinance. You may have incurred more debt than when you reified and now it may be a good time to take a look at.

A Brief History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the United States. It is celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday in November. On this day, families gather together, and many people say prayers of thanks for the years blessings. In many homes, a big dinner of roast turkey and dressing is served. Thanksgiving is traditionally a harvest festival. Similar festivals are celebrated in many parts of the world to give thanks after the years crops have been safely harvested. Canada celebrates its Thanksgiving the second Monday in October.



A small ship called the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, on September 16, 1620. The passengers spent 66 days in the hold of the ship arriving on November 21.

Most of them were Puritans who had been persecuted for their religious beliefs in England. One month later, on December 26, all 102 passengers set foot on land and began to establish the colony of Plymouth. The Pilgrims, as these people came to be called, had borrowed money from a group of English merchants to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They planned to start a settlement in the Virginia Colony in America, but during the long voyage, storms blew their crowded little vessel off course.



After sailing for more than two months, the Mayflower finally reached land near what is now Provincetown on Cape Cod. This part of the American coast, called New England, had been explored several years earlier by an Englishman named Capt. John Smith. The Pilgrims followed Smith's maps and sailed across Cape Cod Bay to the mainland coast of Massachusetts.

They founded the Colony of Plymouth in December 1620. Most of the Pilgrims had suffered terribly from the long voyage. They immediately began to build shelters, but soon they were overcome by a general sickness. Through the course of the winter 46 died, nearly half their original number. Some who became ill on the voyage and who were too sick to be moved stayed on the Mayflower, which was anchored in Plymouth Harbor for the winter.

The Mayflower had been a cargo ship and had to be refitted to handle the Pilgrim passengers. It had three masts and a double deck. No one is sure of what happened to the original Mayflower after it returned to England the following April. A replica of the original Mayflower was built in England in the mid-1950's. This ship, Mayflower II, sailed across the Atlantic in 1957 to commemorate the Pilgrim's voyage. It is now anchored in Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts.

The first American Thanksgiving probably took place in New England. It was celebrated by the Pilgrim settlers, who established Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620. The Pilgrims had struggled bravely through a grim winter with much sickness and little food.

The following spring, friendly Indians helped the settlers to plant corn, and in the autumn, the first crop was harvested. Governor William Bradford proclaimed three days of prayer and thanksgiving. The Pilgrims gave a huge feast and invited the Indian Chief, Massasoit, and 90 of his people.

The custom of observing a special harvest Thanksgiving Day spread throughout the other colonies in the following years. After the American Revolution, the various states continued the custom, each one naming it's own day for giving thanks. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday in November. The present date was established by Congress in 1941.

<http://www.celebratelove.com/thanxhistory.htm>

