

# The Importance Of An Annual Review

Most people know the importance of insurance protection. You don't want to be without it when problems strike. What many don't realize, however, is that protecting themselves with insurance isn't a once and done event. You don't wear the same pants you did when you were five years old. Besides no longer being in style, they simply don't fit. A homeowner's policy purchased when your house was furnished with bean bag chairs and bar stools is no longer going to "fit" once you're lounging on Italian leather sofas while watching television on your wall mounted 54" plasma screen. Life is constantly changing, and your insurance policies should reflect that.

Does that mean you have to immediately call your insurance agent every time you buy a new piece of furniture? Probably Not. While more significant changes should be discussed immediately (such as getting married, getting a new car, or adding onto your home), items such as improving your personal contents, can be discussed at your annual insurance review to make sure your contents are adequately insured. Agents reach out to you in hopes to avoid any gaps in coverage; however, it's equally important for a policyholder to reach out to their agent to make sure they are covered.

When it's time to update your homeowners or business policy, it's also a great time to update your contents inventory as well. Having an up-to-date list and photos of what you own will be very beneficial if you need to file a claim after a fire, theft or natural disaster. This information will enable you to complete the claims process much faster, and help you create a more accurate claim. You'll have the information required so your insurance company can help you get back to where you were before the loss.

Protect yourself, your family, and your personal belongings by making sure that each of your insurance policies gets an annual check-up, along with your inventory You'll rest much better once you do.

## **Are Your Collections Property Insured?**

Do you have a stamp collection - one that you started years ago when you were in grade school? Or maybe someone in your family started one many years before that and it's been just sitting in a closet for what seems to be forever. And then, of course, there is the possibility that you are a stamp collection enthusiast and have quite an extensive album or albums of valuable stamps.

## **October is National Stamp Collection Month.**

Do you know the value of your collection? Are they “just stamps” that you had fun collecting as a child, or is there a real gem that is extremely valuable? If you suspect this to be the case, it would be beneficial to have your collection appraised.

While on the topic, this information applies to any type of collection. Talk to your insurance agent. He or she can help you determine the best coverage. Two options are to increase the collection limit on your policy (average is \$1000) or schedule the collection. Of course, any additional coverage will increase your premium, but once value is determined, it could be a very small price to pay for proper coverage.

### **Increase the limit**

This will allow for replacement of your collection for more than the limit noted in your policy. There are a couple drawbacks to this type of coverage, however. First, you’ll need to prove the value of your collection. If you can’t do that, the insurance company might dispute your claim and you will not be able to recover what you believe to be a fair settlement. Additionally, there are usually stipulations as to what type of loss is covered.

Schedule the collection

### **A schedule will list your stamps as a specific item on your policy.**

An appraisal will be required to determine the current fair market value. This process will ensure full replacement because you’ve already proven value and the insurance company has agreed on the stated value. It is suggested that you have your collections appraised periodically to retain the proper coverage according to the current market value, determined by appreciation of the collection and inflation.

If you have a stamp collection, or any other type of collection, talk to your agent to make sure you have the proper coverage that will best serve you when you are facing a loss and a need to file an insurance claim.

Based on an article for Kendall Inventory Service