

INSURANCE MATTERS

A Newsletter for Delawareans

April 2026



Spring Cleaning Your Insurance Policy

Too often, people take a “set it and forget it” approach to insurance. In reality, policies should be reviewed regularly and updated when life changes occur. Spring offers the perfect reminder to reset and refresh, not just around the house, but with your coverage as well.

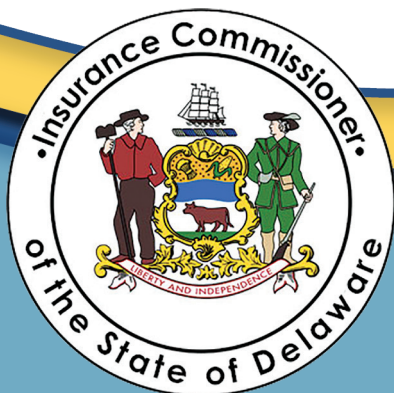
While reviewing your insurance may not free up physical space, it can help identify opportunities to reduce expenses and confirm that you and your loved ones have the protection you need. Life is unpredictable, and keeping your coverage up to date can help prevent financial stress and provide valuable peace of mind.

Insurance should never be treated as a one-time decision. It is an agreement that should change and adapt as your life evolves, helping protect you from worst-case scenarios that, ideally, you will never have to face. It's also important not to focus solely on finding the lowest price, as doing so can sometimes mean sacrificing important coverage just to reduce costs.

To find out more about spring cleaning your insurance policy continue to page 2

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SPRING CLEANING

Your Insurance Policies

Reviewing Your Coverage

As you begin to evaluate your coverage levels, it's important to account for any changes that may have occurred in the last year. In many cases, even what may seem like small factors can impact your policies. So be sure to carefully reflect on life events, expenses and other adjustments that have come to pass since the last time you assessed your coverage levels. Here are some key insurances that you may want to review.

Auto Insurance

If you've purchased a new vehicle or made any significant enhancements to your car, you should update your coverage. Other factors such as your driving record, state of residence and even your age can greatly affect your insurance.

In the State of Delaware you may qualify for an auto insurance discount when you take a defensive driving course. So keep a close eye on your policy before you decide that no changes need to be made.

Homeowners Insurance

Of course, if you've moved, you need to give your home insurance coverage a comprehensive review. However, any upgrades you've made to your home such as adding a room, remodeling the kitchen or replacing the roof will play into the amount of coverage you should have on file.

Generally speaking, any change in your assets or major life events like a new job, marriage or child are definite signs that your insurance coverage deserves some attention. To consolidate your policies, you may even wish to explore bundled insurance packages to ensure you have adequate protection going forward.

Health Insurance

Taking a few moments to review your coverage can help ensure everything is organized and ready when you need it most. Start by dusting off your policy documents and reviewing what your plan covers. Make sure you understand your deductible, copays, and network providers.

If your health needs have changed over the past year, such as new prescriptions, ongoing treatments, or adding family members, it may be time to reassess whether your current plan still fits your needs.

Life Insurance

Start by pulling out your policy documents and giving them a careful review. Check that your beneficiary designations are current and reflect your wishes. Life changes such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, or the loss of a loved one may mean it's time to update who will receive your benefits. Keeping this information accurate helps prevent confusion and ensures your loved ones are protected.

Next, take a look at your coverage amount. As your life grows and changes, your financial responsibilities may change too. A new home, growing family, or increased expenses could mean you need more coverage, while paying off debts or children becoming financially independent might mean your needs have shifted.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MORE THAN FLOWERS

April is often known for its rainy days and blooming flowers, but those seasonal showers can also bring an increased risk of flooding. Even moderate rainfall over time can overwhelm drainage systems, saturate the ground, and allow water to seep into homes. Taking a few preventative steps now can help protect your property, reduce damage, and potentially keep insurance costs more manageable.

Flooding can happen quickly and in places homeowners may not expect. Heavy rain can cause water to pool around foundations, back up into basements, or enter through doors and windows. Unfortunately, many homeowners are surprised to learn that standard homeowners insurance policies typically do not cover flood damage. That makes prevention and preparedness especially important.

Protect Your Home From Flooding

One of the simplest ways to protect your home is by making sure gutters and downspouts are clean and working properly. Leaves, debris, and dirt can block water flow, causing rainwater to spill over and collect near your home's foundation. Downspouts should direct water several feet away from the house to prevent seepage. Regularly inspecting your roof for damaged shingles and sealing cracks in your foundation can also help keep unwanted water outside where it belongs.

Homeowners should also take time to check the grading around their property. The ground should slope away from the home so water flows outward instead of pooling near the foundation. Installing a sump pump in basements or crawl spaces can provide an extra layer of protection, especially in areas prone to heavy rainfall. Testing sump pumps regularly ensures they will work when needed most.

Protecting important items inside your home is just as important. Store valuable documents, keepsakes, and electronics in waterproof containers or elevated areas, particularly in basements. Creating an inventory of your belongings with photos or videos can also make the insurance claims process easier if damage does occur.

Taking preventive steps today may also help control insurance costs over time. Flood damage can be expensive to repair, and repeated claims may impact future premiums. Homeowners who reduce their risk of flooding are often in a better position to avoid costly repairs and maintain stable insurance coverage. In some cases, purchasing a separate flood insurance policy may provide valuable financial protection and peace of mind.

THE DOI CORNER

AXA World College

The Delaware Department of Insurance had the pleasure of meeting with the AXA Société Anonyme (SA) Group World College in Paris, France. The event brings almost 30 regulators from around the world to discuss the financial performance and strategic plan of AXA SA. Supervising the group was our financial analyst supervisor Tom Hudson, and helping him was our assigned analyst Blake Synnestvedt. As lead regulator, the Delaware Department of Insurance is responsible for reviewing the AXA Group and reporting to the domestic and international regulators.



ASK THE COMMISSIONER

How Can I Save Money on my Insurance?

Many Delawareans are looking for ways to save money, and reviewing your insurance policies is a smart place to start. The Delaware Department of Insurance encourages consumers to take simple steps that can help lower premiums while still maintaining the protection they need.

One of the best ways to save money is to shop around and compare policies from different insurers. Rates can vary, even for similar coverage, so taking time to review your options may result in meaningful savings. You should also ask your insurance company or agent about available discounts. Many companies offer savings for bundling policies, maintaining a safe driving record, installing safety devices in your home, or enrolling in automatic payments.

Another way to reduce costs is to review your deductible. Choosing a higher deductible can lower your monthly premium, but it's important to make sure you can afford the out-of-pocket expense if you need to file a claim. In addition, reviewing your coverage each year helps ensure your policies still match your needs. Life changes, such as moving, purchasing a vehicle, or making home improvements can affect both your coverage and your premiums.

Saving money on insurance does not mean cutting essential coverage. The goal is to make informed choices that protect you, your family, and your property while keeping costs manageable. If you have questions about your coverage or want help understanding your options, the Delaware Department of Insurance encourages you to contact us at 302-674-7300.



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The consumer comes first.

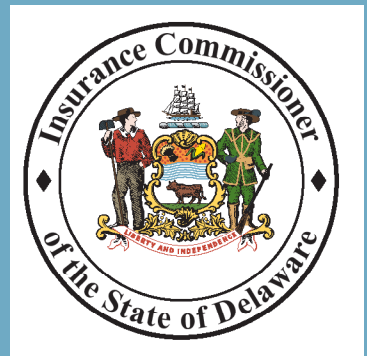
Our office is here to help if you have questions about or problems with your insurance coverage or insurance company.

Questions about insurance or complaints about an insurance company or insurance agent can be made to the Consumer Services Division by phone, by fax, by letter, by email or with an online complaint form.

Phone: 302-674-7300

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consumer@delaware.gov



Our Mission

Protecting Delawareans through regulation and education while providing oversight of the insurance industry to best serve the public.