FIRE INSURANCE FUNDAMENTALS

MAIN TYPES OF HOME INSURANCE POLICIES IN CANADA

COMPREHENSIVE
Provides coverage to protect your home and contents against all risks, other than those that are specifically named in your policy as exclusions. Sometimes called an "all-risk" or "special" policy.

BROAD
A broad insurance policy; it covers all risks to your home, except for those specifically named in your policy as exclusions (similar to comprehensive policies). It only covers risks to your contents that are specifically named in your policy (like standard policies).

STANDARD
A standard insurance policy, provides less coverage than a comprehensive policy and, in some cases, less than a broad policy. It is only specifically named in your policy as being covered, and only a standard policy will provide coverage for that risk. A standard policy can also be referred to as a "standard" or "named perils policy."

NO FRILLS
This type provides the least amount of coverage. A no-frills policy offers very basic coverage for homes that don’t meet typical standards for insurance.

PERSONAL LIABILITY
Whether you own or rent your home, you can be held liable for bodily injury or property damage unintentionally caused to others. This section provides coverage if such an event occurs on or away from your property.

MAIN TYPE OF INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE IN CANADA

COVERAGE A
Coverage for your Dwelling
- Structure
- Floors
- Roof
- Windows
- Walls
- Foundation
- Heating
- Doors
- Attic
- Attached structures
- Attached garage
- Deck/porch
- Outdoor permanent equipment
- Ponds
- Hot tubs
- Children’s play structures
- Sprinkler systems

COVERAGE B
Coverage for Detached Structures
- Detached Garages
- Sheds
- Garages

COVERAGE C
Home Contents
- Coverage for your personal belongings
- Usually a sub-limit to this coverage
- Usually add-ons for high-value items such as jewelry, fur, etc. (Remember to check with your insurer)
- Contents coverage can differ widely per policy

COVERAGE D
Additional Living Expenses (ALE)
- Coverage for additional costs incurred, above and beyond your normal costs, while your home is uninhabitable
- Usually includes:
  - Hotel
  - Food
  - Boarding pets
  - Laundry
  - Rent
  - Storage
- Usually a sub-limit and time limit associated with this coverage
- Usually ALE is activated when an insured peril leaves your home uninhabitable or where an evacuation order has been made by the authorities

REBUILDING TO CODE: ANY HOME REBUILD MUST BE TO PRESENT BUILDING CODES

Be sure to check whether there is a time limit or dollar amount on your ALE coverage

ADDITIONAL LIVING EXPENSES (ALE) - COVERAGE D

Keeps all receipts, quotes and invoices for all costs (excluding time you are prevented from residing in your home due to the wildfire). This can be helpful with insurance claims and applications to governmental assistance programs.

If you have an increase in premium, or exclusion, or restriction, or change in coverage, be sure to let your insurance company know, and they will work with you to keep your home safe.
MAIN TYPES OF HOME INSURANCE POLICIES IN CANADA

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STANDARD
A standard insurance policy provides less coverage than a comprehensive policy and in some cases, less than a broad policy. If a risk is not specifically named in your policy as being covered, then a standard policy will not provide coverage for that risk. A standard policy can also be referred to as a "basic" or "named perils policy."

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Whether you own or rent your home, you can be held liable for bodily injury or property damage unintentionally caused to others. This section provides coverage if such an event occurs on or away from your property.

MAIN TYPE OF INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE IN CANADA

COVERAGE A
Coverage for your Dwelling
- The house itself
- Roof
- Windows
- Walls
- Foundation
- Heating
- Doors
- Attached structures
- Attached garage
- Deck / porch
- Outdoor permanent equipment
- Pool
- Hot tubs
- Children’s play structures
- Sprinkler systems

COVERAGE B
Coverage for Detached Structures
- Detached Garages
- Sheds
- Garages

COVERAGE C
Home Contents
- Coverage for your personal belongings
- Usually a dollar limit to this coverage
- Usually adds limits for high value items such as jewelry, furs, gold, etc.
- Coverage for these items will be added in the endorsements section.
- Contents coverage can either be per policy or per unit.

COVERAGE D
Additional Living Expenses (ALE)
- Coverage for additional costs incurred, above and beyond your normal costs, while your home is uninhabitable:
  - Hotel
  - Food
  - Boarding pets
  - Laundry
  - Rent
  - Storage
- Usually a dollar limit and time limit associated with this coverage.
- Usually ALE is activated when an insured peril leaves your home uninhabitable or where an evacuation order has been made by the authorities.

REBUILDING TO CODE: ANY HOME MUST BE TO PRESENT BUILDING CODES

Be sure to check whether there is a time limit or dollar amount on your ALE coverage.

ADDITIONAL LIVING EXPENSES (ALE) - COVERAGE D

FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS

FIRE INSURANCE
Coverage for damage due to fire. Most home insurance policies include coverage for this peril and most include coverage for your contents as a result of a fire loss.

MORTGAGE
Even if you are not contractually required to report loss or damage to your mortgage holder, it is a good idea to notify your bank in the case that you wish to attempt to make payment arrangements on your mortgage or other financial penalties.

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