

## QUICK – CLOSE YOUR EYES AND DESCRIBE EVERY OBJECT IN YOUR HOME. HAVING TROUBLE?

This is what you will be asked to do by an insurance adjuster should your home ever be damaged by a house fire, flood, windstorm, or other unforeseen disaster. It pays - literally - to keep track of your possessions and their monetary values ahead of time. Having a home inventory prepared in advance ensures that you receive fair compensation as quickly as possible after a disaster.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR POSSESSIONS ARE WORTH?

A 2012 survey by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) found that over half of U.S. consumers did not have a list of their possessions. Worse, many homeowners were paid a settlement of far less than their possessions were actually worth because they could not remember the exact items or value of items in their home after the fact. What to do to prepare

### KNOW WHAT YOUR INSURANCE POLICY COVERS

Many people believe their homeowners insurance will cover them in the event of a flood, but it will not. Renters should also look into the possibility of renters insurance if they do not yet have it. Know whether your policy insures for actual cash value –replacement or repair cost minus depreciation – or replacement cost –the cost with no depreciated deducted. Consider adding a rider to your policy to protect particularly valuable items, art, jewelry, or heirlooms.

### TAKE INVENTORY

Be thorough and organized when taking inventory. Some find that taking photos is handy, or that it is simpler to shoot a video –pausing to focus on each item while describing the brand, model number, and value aloud. Others use home inventory software programs, such as the free myHOME Scr.APP.book web and phone app available from NAIC. When creating your inventory, do not overlook small or hidden items that will add up to significant chunks of money – clothing, holiday decorations, carpeting and built-in furniture for examples.

Get started now by filling out the checklist below. Use as many sheets as you need for the number of rooms in your home. When you're finished, keep at least one copy of the completed list outside of your home, such as at your office, a family member's house, or a safe deposit box. Keep receipts and photographs whenever possible and update the list annually and with additional major purchases.



**Laundry/Utility/Storage Room (furniture: e.g. table, shelving, storage units, floor and lighting)**

Item	Price	Purchased	Make/Model

**Appliances (e.g. washer and dryer, sink basin, vacuum cleaner)**


**Miscellaneous (e.g. cleaning supplies, containers, packaway)**


**Bedroom (furniture: e.g. mattress and bed frame, dressers, desk)**

Item	Price	Purchased	Make/Model

**Electronics (e.g. computer, stereo, television)**


**Room Decor (e.g. art, carpeting, lighting, rugs, blinds and curtains)**


**Miscellaneous (e.g. linens, telephone, radio, alarm clock)**


**Bathroom (furniture and fixtures: e.g. tub, toilet, storage rack, tiling, vanity)**

Item	Price	Purchased	Make/Model
Toiletries and Linens (e.g. towels, shower curtain, medicine cabinet supplies)			
Miscellaneous (e.g. other small items)			

**Outdoor/Seasonal/Garage (furniture and Decor: e.g. patio furniture, deck, lighting, storage, A/C unit)**

Item	Price	Purchased	Make/Model
Plants, Landscaping, and Garden (e.g. shrubs, planters, gardening tools, lawnmower)			
Holiday Decorations (e.g. banners, wall decor)			
Pet Supplies (e.g. crate, leash, aquarium, food)			
Hobby and Tools (e.g. toolbox, machinery, RV, boat, trailer, bike)			

