



Your home insurance premium

is based on how likely it is that you, or a group of people facing a same set of circumstances similar to yours, will experience property loss or damage and how much the resulting claims will cost. While some of the factors that affect your premium – for example, your home's distance from a fire station – may be beyond your control, others aren't.

*Insurance companies compete with **each other** for your business. Shopping around for the policy best suited to your needs is the best way to save money.*

Questions about insurance? Call us.

Insurance Bureau of Canada
Toll-free: 1-844-2ask-IBC
(1-844-227-5422)

ibc.ca

-  @InsuranceBureau
-  facebook.com/insurancebureau
-  youtube.com/insurancebureau

Insurance Bureau of Canada is the national trade association for Canada's private home, car and business insurers.



© 2016 Insurance Bureau of Canada. All rights reserved.

The information provided in this brochure is intended for educational and informational purposes only. Please consult the appropriate qualified professional to determine if this information is applicable to your circumstances.

04/16

TIPS ON HOW TO REDUCE YOUR HOME INSURANCE PREMIUM



HOME INSURANCE → VISIT IBC.CA



Here are some tips that can help minimize the cost of your home insurance.

► **Shop around.** Obtain quotes from a variety of insurance companies. Ask about discounts or promotions.

► **Get a home insurance quote** from your car insurance provider, if you own a car. Companies often offer discounts when you “bundle” your home and car insurance together.

► **Increase your deductible.** The higher your deductible, the lower your premium, but make sure it's one you can afford to pay in the event of a loss.

► **Take preventive measures** against fire, theft, water damage and severe weather. This may include installing a theft alarm system, reinforced roofing, a backwater valve, storm shutters, sump pumps and a sprinkler system. Upgrading your electrical, heating and plumbing systems may help to reduce your premium as well. Let your insurer know when you make an update to your home as it may help to reduce your premium.

► **Ask your current insurance representative** if you qualify for any additional discounts – for example, if you're over the age of 55 or are mortgage or claims-free.

► **Consider paying your premium annually** to avoid potential service or interest charges.

► **Evaluate your coverage every year** to ensure it reflects your home's current value, including upgrades, renovations and major purchases.

► **Quit smoking.** Many home fires are caused by careless smoking. Many insurance companies acknowledge that non-smokers have a lower risk of fire loss and offer a discount.



► **Don't over-insure your home** by including the market price of the land in your home's insured value. You can't make a claim that is higher than the actual loss to insured property – which does not include the underlying land. Insure your home for what it would cost to rebuild in the event of a loss.

► **Avoid terminating your home insurance policy** before its term – it may result in a mid-term cancellation charge. If you decide to change insurance companies, it is advisable to wait until your policy is up for renewal before doing so.