

Amica *today*

FALL 2017

Inside

- Only 4 out of 10 have renters insurance
- Understanding your auto coverage
- Tips to help prevent costly ice dams



Plan ahead –
Protect your
family's financial
future

Men more likely to carry life insurance than women

A recent LIMRA study found that just 56 percent of American women have life insurance coverage, while 62 percent of men do. While the ownership rate among adults as a whole has remained the same since 2010, the percentage of women insured dropped while the percentage of men insured increased.

only **56%**
of American
women have
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"Our research has consistently found that women are less likely to have life insurance coverage than men," said James Scanlon, research director, LIMRA Insurance

Research. "The fact that fewer women have any coverage at all and oftentimes are well underinsured leaves many American families at risk if they die prematurely."

Regardless of where you find yourself in life – with or without children at home, developing a career or nearing

retirement, or being a caretaker for a loved one – it's important to make sure you're adequately insured to protect your family's financial future.

Consider the ways that different types of life insurance policies can help your family financially:

- Provide cash to pay the mortgage and other ongoing household expenses
- Fund children's education and other long-term goals
- Pay estate taxes, medical bills, funeral costs and other expenses
- Help save more for retirement

The study did offer some encouraging news: Almost 50 percent of women said they knew they needed more life insurance coverage. However, one of the top reasons given for not purchasing the coverage was their concern about affordability.

These concerns can be dispelled by going online to get a quick quote or



speaking with an Amica Life specialist, who will take the time to listen, answer questions and explain how life insurance can fit into your overall financial plans.

We have many coverage options that can be tailored to best fit your needs and those of your family. We'd be happy to discuss your needs or review your existing coverage.

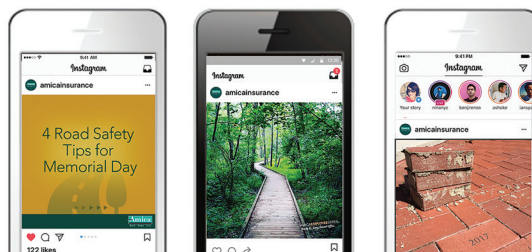
Visit **AmicaLifeLessons.com** or give us a call today at **844-596-1385**.

We're here to help.

*Life Insurance Ownership in Focus, U.S. Person-Level Trends: 2016, LIMRA.com.

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Amica Insurance is on Instagram



Amica
today

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To stop receiving future print editions or to send comments, please contact Julie Simpson at **jsimpson@amica.com** or Amica Today, Corporate Communications, PO Box 6008, Providence, RI 02940-6008.

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Change – It's what life's all about

Review your life insurance needs today

Before saying goodbye to another year, take a look at your life insurance coverage.

If 2017 has been a year of big changes for you and your family, it's especially important to make sure you review your life insurance. Here are some quick questions to ask yourself:

1. Do we have enough coverage?

Of course, that depends on you and your stage of life. Did you just get married? Are you a new parent? Has your income increased? Do you travel a lot? Are you nearing retirement? Considering long-term care? If you've experienced a major change in the last year, chances are you may need to consider some changes in your life insurance. All it takes is one phone call to get the answers you need.

Let's say you know all the answers to these questions. You're fairly confident that you've made the right choices and your insurance knowledge is adequate.

There's one more reason why you should review your insurance choices annually: It gives you a chance to reconnect with your insurance company and to be confident that the company you've chosen is financially secure.

Amica Life is a subsidiary of Amica Mutual Insurance Company, which has been serving its customers for 110 years. Amica Life upholds the same ethical and careful decision-making that is at the core of Amica's financial strength.

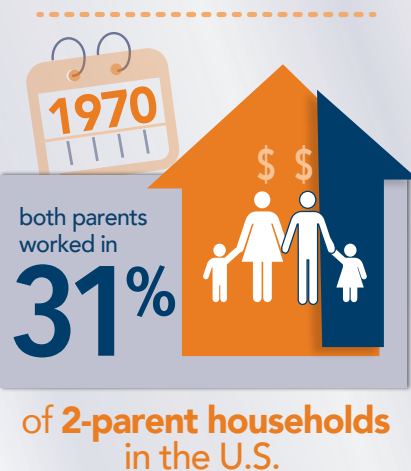
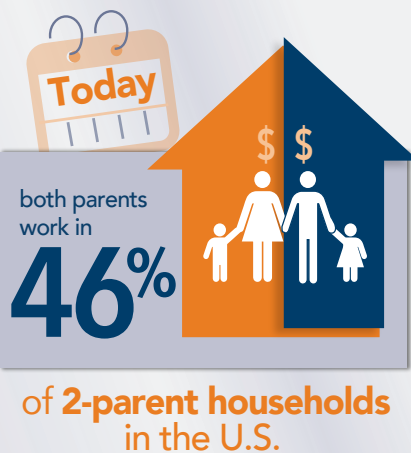
The insurance industry provides many measures of a company's financial strength. One highly regarded industry analyst is A.M. Best Company, which has been reviewing companies for more than 75 years.

In 2017, A.M. Best once again assigned Amica Life an A+ (Superior)* rating, which means we have a superior ability to meet our insurance obligations to policyholders.

Call us at **844-596-1385** or visit **AmicaLifeLessons.com**. We're here to review your insurance, answer your questions, discuss your concerns – and help you deal with life's changes.

*A.M. Best Company. Feb. 3, 2017. For the latest rating, access ambest.com.

Did you know?



Source: Pew Research Center,
www.pewresearch.org

2. Do we actually have the coverage we think we do?

Dig out your life insurance policy and review it with one of our Amica Life specialists. You'll learn a thing or two about insurance, and you'll feel more secure with your choices. Here are some basics you should know: the types of life insurance, what group life covers, your policy riders and additional benefits.

3. Are we over or underinsured?

You probably think you'd never hear those words from an insurance company. However, one look at the big picture shows where coverage is weak or, sometimes, redundant. An insurance review helps you understand insurance products, their uses and their misuses.

4. Can we bundle policies and save money?

Yes! If you're thinking of making changes, call an Amica Life specialist to find out how bundling could affect your total cost.

9 green car care tips

Maintaining the family car makes it safer and more dependable, but it also makes it “greener” on the road. We’re sharing the following tips from the Car Care Council to help improve your car’s gas mileage and protect the environment.

- **Keep the car properly tuned for optimum performance:** Regular engine performance maintenance will help burn less gas, pollute less and prevent future car trouble.
- **Regularly replace dirty air filters:** Replacing a clogged air filter will improve the car’s performance and acceleration.
- **Have spark plugs checked and replaced, if necessary:** A dirty spark plug also causes misfiring, which wastes fuel.
- **Maintain the cooling system:** A cooling system thermostat that causes the engine to run too cold will lower the fuel efficiency of the car.
- **Check tires monthly:** Proper tire pressure can improve gas mileage by 3.3 percent or 10 cents per gallon.
- **Use the correct motor oil:** You can improve mileage by 1 to 2 percent. Look for oil that says “energy conserving.” The oil and oil filter should be changed every 3,000 to 5,000 miles, or as recommended in the owner’s manual.
- **Check gas caps:** A loose, cracked or damaged gas cap allows gas to escape from the tank as vapor, wasting fuel and increasing vehicle emissions.
- **Inspect the A/C:** Have the air conditioning system inspected annually by a technician, who will check the pressures to test operation, refrigerant charge and outlet temperatures.
- **Maintain the vehicle fuel system:** Replace the car’s fuel filter every two years or 24,000 miles, and have fuel injectors flushed every 30,000 miles for a cleaner, “greener” car that will save money at the pump.

More tips to help avoid trouble down the road

October is Fall Car Care Month, so here are some more helpful tips from the Car Care Council to make sure your car is operating at its best.

- Check the tire tread, and also look for bulges and bald spots. Uneven wear to the tires means it’s time for a wheel alignment.
- Make sure the lights and windshield wipers work properly. Check both the interior and exterior lighting, and replace worn wiper blades to improve visibility during precipitation.
- Have the brake system checked annually, and make sure brake linings, rotors and drums are inspected during every oil change.
- Check the battery, hoses and belts. Make sure the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free. For hoses, make sure they are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or showing signs of excessive wear.
- Top off all fluids, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluid, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

Also, check out our short video about **Building a Roadside Emergency Kit** on Amica’s YouTube channel. You’ll feel more assured on the road with this kit in your car!

In the driver's seat with your auto policy

Many people purchase auto insurance for protection in the case of an accident but not everyone has taken the time to actually read their insurance policy.

A solid understanding of the coverages provided in your policy will help to make sure that you're comfortable with the coverages you have, and it will also help you know what to expect after a loss. In our third article on insurance terms, we look at some of the main parts of your auto policy.

Your auto coverages

A typical policy contains four sections that provide different coverages:

► Liability

Provides coverage for bodily injury or property damage, that you are responsible for, to someone else that you are responsible for as a result of a car accident.

► Medical Payments and Personal Injury Protection (PIP)

Covers medical expenses resulting from

a car accident. May also cover lost wages, loss of essential services (ability to perform basic tasks) and funeral expenses for you or anyone else on your policy.

► Uninsured Motorists and Underinsured Motorists

Provides coverage for injuries you sustain if the driver who caused the accident doesn't have any (or enough) insurance to cover your damages.

► Damage to Your Vehicle

This coverage is divided into two sections:

- Collision – if your car is damaged from an accident with another car or object.
- Other than collision (OTC, also known as Comprehensive) – includes fire, theft, hail damage, contact with an animal, broken glass and more.

Automobile policies and regulations vary greatly state to state. Additionally, many endorsements are available that can customize your policy to your specific needs. We hope you'll check

out your policy and review your coverages carefully.



Remember, we're here to help if you have questions or need to make changes. Please don't hesitate to call us at **800-242-6422**.

Did You Know?

Check out this short video about **Collision** and **Other Than Collision** on Amica's YouTube channel.





Renting on the rise

Only 4 out of 10
have renters insurance

From college graduates moving into their first apartments to empty nesters looking to downsize, renting is on the rise in the U.S. In fact, according to Bloomberg.com, more than half of the 100 largest U.S. cities now have more

only **41%**
of renters say
they have
renters
insurance

renters than
property owners.

However, in
a recent poll
by the
Insurance
Information

Institute, only 41 percent of renters say they have renters insurance. And in many of those cases, it's only because landlords require it.

"Many renters don't realize how much they own until they add up the cost to replace everything," said Ben Mellino,

senior assistant vice president in Amica's sales and client services department. "It can easily range into the tens of thousands of dollars, and that's when having renters insurance becomes so clear."

Amica wants renters to be aware of all the coverage a renters policy offers. Renters insurance provides coverage against fire, vandalism and theft, and it also covers clothes, electronics, furnishings and other belongings, even if they're elsewhere, such as in a car.

Renters insurance also provides:

- Liability protection against claims for property damage or bodily injury, and includes the cost for legal representation.

- Coverage for extra expenses, such as hotel bills, when an apartment becomes uninhabitable due to a covered loss.

Amica's Renters Essentials® policy* allows renters to customize their coverage, with added protection for electronics, including smartphones, and identity theft. For tenants planning to eventually buy a house or condo, Renters Essentials® gives a yearly \$100 credit – up to \$500 total – which can be put toward a future Amica home or condo policy.

If you have questions, give us a call at **800-242-6422** or get a quote on **Amica.com**. We're here to help.

*This product may not be available in all states.

Did you know?



- Some **43.3 million** households currently rent their housing, including more than **80 million adults** and **families** with over **30 million children**.
- The renter share of U.S. households now stands at a **50-year high of 37%**, up more than **5 points** from 2004, when the homeownership rate peaked.

- Households aged **55 and over** accounted for **44% of growth** in rental housing between 2005 and 2016.
- **High-income households** (earning at least \$100,000) that rented their homes **increased** from **12% to 18%** from 2005 to 2016.

Source: "The State of the Nation's Housing 2017," Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, June 2017. www.jchs.harvard.edu

Brrrrrrr!

Get ready *now* to prevent trouble

Thinking about the cold weather may bring a chill, but now's the time to prepare your home for winter. That's why we're sharing tips from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety to help prevent costly damage from ice dams and frozen pipes.

Ice dams

Ice dams are thick ridges of solid ice that build up along the eaves, and they're caused by snow-covered roofs and freezing weather. Dams can tear off gutters, loosen shingles and cause water to back up into the house. To prevent ice dams:

- ❄ Insulate the attic floor and the light fixtures in the ceiling below the attic to minimize the amount of heat entering the attic.
- ❄ Keep the attic well-ventilated.
- ❄ Remove debris from gutters and drains so water can properly flow through them.
- ❄ Seal attic ducts, chimneys and fans.

Freezing and bursting pipes

If a frozen pipe bursts, it can cause serious damage. To keep pipes from freezing:

- ❄ Shut off and drain any exterior plumbing lines, such as hose bibs.
- ❄ Ensure doors, windows and wall cracks are sealed properly, including utility service lines.
- ❄ Place a monitored automatic excess flow switch on the main incoming water line to detect a broken pipe or valve.
- ❄ If you have a sump pump, use a reliable backup power source, such as a battery backup or generator, to ensure continuous power to the home.

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 5. In addition to turning back the clocks, we're reminding you to change the batteries in your home's smoke alarms.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with either no smoke alarms or homes where smoke alarms aren't working. That's why it's important to have alarms that are properly installed and stocked with fresh batteries.

Here are four tips from the NFPA to remember:

- 1. Install alarms** in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every floor, including the basement. Since smoke rises, alarms should be placed high on a wall or on the ceiling.
- 2. Alarms should be tested** once a month to make sure they're working correctly.
- 3. Replace the batteries** at least once a year. If an alarm alerts you that the battery is low, possibly with a chirping noise, the battery should be replaced immediately.
- 4. Replace alarms** every 10 years or sooner if they're not responding properly.



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