

CUSTOM

HOME

OPTIONS

- Identity Theft
- **Scheduled Personal Property**
- **Water Back-up of Sewers and Drains**
- Earthquake

Contact your Absolute Agent for additional info on these options prior to the next issue.

Phone: 515-279-2722

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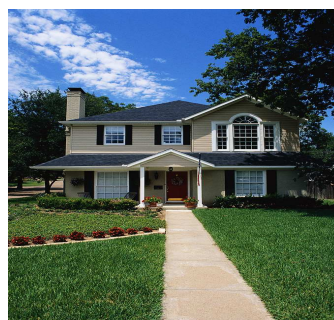
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Custom Home Insurance Series: Part 2

Part 2 of our Custom Home Insurance Series is just in time for Valentine's Day! This part will focus on Scheduled Personal Property and how to insure it properly for the full replacement value.

As most readers already know, your home insurance covers personal property at a certain percentage of your dwelling coverage. This percent is usually set at 70%, so if you have a \$100,000 policy on your home, then your contents are covered up to \$70,000. While this is good coverage, there are limitations placed on certain types of property. These types of property include (but not limited to, for specifics about your policy, contact your Absolute Agent):



Call your Absolute Agent after Valentine's to add your sweethearts new gifts to your Home Insurance Policy.

- Jewelry, Watches, Furs
- Firearms
- Artwork
- Silverware or Gold-ware

Some of these limits are as low as \$1,500 in total per class of items. Also at stake when looking at these items is that they will fall under the total household deductible. By this, if your \$5,000 wedding ring was stolen, then the company would pay up to \$1,500 minus your deductible (nowadays, a standard home insurance deductible is \$1,000). By this, you would not be able to replace the ring with like kind and quality. An easy way to get these to replacement value is to get an appraisal for each item that would exceed (or come close to) the limit and get it over to your Absolute Agent. Not only will the pieces be insured to that value, but they would have a separate deductible of your choosing. Give us a call today.

The Case of the Missing Diamond

Last summer, while boating and tubing in Saylorville Lake, Samantha and her family were having a wonderful time. They spent the day at the lake and returned home exhausted and ready for a nice relaxing evening lounging in the yard. After her shower, she noticed that her wedding ring no

longer had the diamond stone in the setting. She was instantly panicked. Obviously, it must have come loose during her tubing. She told her husband, Jake, and he simply reminded her that he had taken the ring appraisal in to his Absolute Agent and scheduled the jewelry on there home

owners policy. The cost was around \$8 per thousand, per year and he was instructed that this afforded them a \$0 deductible. They turned in the claim and restored the ring to its original glory, all with no money out of pocket. Another coverage saver by their Absolute Agent!



Enjoy the winter season safely with tips from the Pro's!

“(Roth IRA’s) are a great approach to saving if those funds are not going to be needed until you retire.”

Let your Absolute Agent help you with the decision on a Roth IRA or Universal Life.



Snowmobile Safety

With winter in full swing, many folks are beginning to get their snowmobiles ready for the winter fun. **Tread Lightly** highlights several key safety tips to ensure that you and your snowmobile make it home safely. For further information on safety tips or snowmobile education go to www.treadlightly.org.

- Only travel in areas open for snowmobiles.
- Travel at reasonable speeds.
- Only travel where there is adequate snow coverage.
- Always cross roadways at 90 degree angles.
- Beware of unseen hazards buried under snow.
- Use caution when coming to the top of a hill.
- Pump your brakes when going downhill.
- Avoid traveling on frozen waterways.
- Ride single file when in groups.
- Yield right of way to pedestrians.
- Reduce speed when approaching a corner.
- Do not go over the machines weight limits.
- Use extra caution at night and wear reflective gear.
- Go with a friend or two in case of break down or accident.

At a Glance: Roth IRA or Universal Life

In today's market, we often hear about the values of the Roth IRA and how it can be used as a great retirement vehicle. So much, in fact, that many proponents even suggest that one should focus on term life insurance and take the remaining amount that would be placed in a permanent life insurance product into a Roth IRA. In so doing, you will not only have the coverage you need, for a specified amount of time plus have the retirement funds that will be needed in the future.

This is a great approach to saving if those funds are not going to be needed until you retire. Another avenue of approach is a well prepared Universal Life Insurance Policy. These are policies that are permanent in

nature and have many of the same advantages of the Roth IRA. One glaring difference is that with the Universal Life Insurance, you have the ability to access these funds when you need them as opposed to having to wait until retirement (or shortly before).

Universal Life insurance policies have two components: life insurance and savings. A portion of the funds are used to maintain a life insurance policy for the life of the client, and the remaining amount is placed in a savings account.

Unlike a Roth IRA, the Universal Life Insurance Policy does not have near the limitations on the amount that can be deposited. With the Roth, that amount is set by the Federal Government and is currently set at \$4,000 per year (or \$5,000 for people ages 50 or over). With the Universal Life, the amount depends on

the construction of the policy itself, but one could feasibly apply up to \$24,000 in a year to the policy. This would have an immense difference on how soon the money compounds with the interest in the savings portion of the life insurance. This allows for more tax-free growth with larger sums of money.

While both maintain the tax-free growth on the investment, only the Universal Life policy gives the owner the ability to realize retirement goals, use of the funds prior to retirement with no tax penalties, all the while maintaining the protection of life insurance. With that, the owner of the policy does not need to worry about policy fees, loading fees, or management of account fees—there are none attached to a Universal Life Insurance Policy.

Winter Driving Woes: Defensive Driving Tips



According to **Road Trip America** (www.roadtripamerica.com) there are over 70 defensive driving tips to follow. We will review a few of these.

1. Pay Attention. This seems

Great tips to keep your losses and cost to a minimum

overly obvious but as the site mentions, most accidents happen close to home, where you may let your guard go down.

2. Don't Run Red lights. These are broken down into two types– the distracted driver and the impatient driver. The impatient driver will speed through yellows as they are turning red. This type of driving kills hundreds per year.

3. Create space and maintain the 2 second rule. That is, make sure

there is plenty of space for emergency breaking– DON'T TAIL-GATE!

4. Don't speed. Keep pace with traffic unless over the limit, in which case, move to the far right lane. Your reaction time is between .75 – 1.5 seconds, which can be a long distance at high rates of speed. This does not include breaking time! Remember, the difference between 65mph and 80 over 50 miles is only 8.7 minutes!!!

“Many times, the loss ... will get compounded if the insured doesn't... prevent further loss.”

Home: After the Loss – what to do?

While most people are familiar with the process of reporting the car accident they were involved in, few know how to handle the situation when a loss occurs to their homes.

Here a few steps to take in the event of loss to the home:

- Call your Absolute Agent immediately– if after hours, then call the company directly
- Prevent any additional loss. Many times, the loss will be a situation that will get compounded if the insured doesn't take the necessary steps to prevent further loss. For instance, if there is a hole in the roof from high winds– try to cover the hole to reduce continued damage from rain and exposure to the elements
- Take photos of the damage and send them to the claim adjustor.
- Get contact information and claim number from your claims adjuster for quick references to check on the status of your claim.
- Relax– you've got an Absolute Agent ready to help.

Absolute Kitchen: Lemon Herb Chicken (Oven)

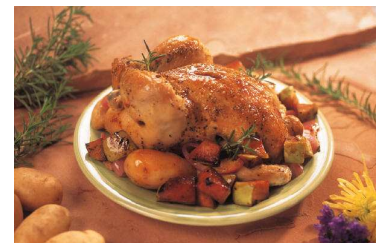
What you will need:

- Young bird (3-4 lbs) quartered
- 2 lemons
- 2 tablespoons Minced Garlic
- 2 teaspoons Summer Savory
- 2 teaspoons Rosemary
- 2 tablespoons Sea Salt

- 1 stick of Real Iowa Salted Butter
- 2 teaspoons Ground Black Pepper

Overnight, marinade the chicken in freshly squeezed lemon juice (1 lemon). Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Melt butter in sauce pan and add all ingredients (squeeze last lemon into pan). Heat until warm and then baste the chicken quarters evenly. Place chicken in oven and

cook for an hour (or until juices run clear– I use a meat thermometer– 170 degrees for breast, 180 for legs/thighs). Baste every 15-20 minutes. Chicken should be extremely tender and great on a bed of white rice. Enjoy!



Try this recipe for an amazing lemony blast of flavor in every bite!

mortgage

life

hazard
death



insurance

Mortgage Insurance is just as important as fire insurance because the death of an income earner is a far greater hazard, as shown by the following figures.

personal finance

Age of Homeowner	Chance of Death within 30 years
25	1 in 9
30	1 in 6
35	1 in 4
40	1 in 3
45	1 in 2
50	1 in 1½



The chance of a home burning down during a 20-year mortgage period is 1 in 200!

LZ323K (Jan. 08)

Iowa: Get Flood Smart.

Use the Attached link to enter the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Official Website for information and Frequently Asked Questions. Should you have any questions, call Daniel Bell at **515-279-2722**.

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/fastfacts>.