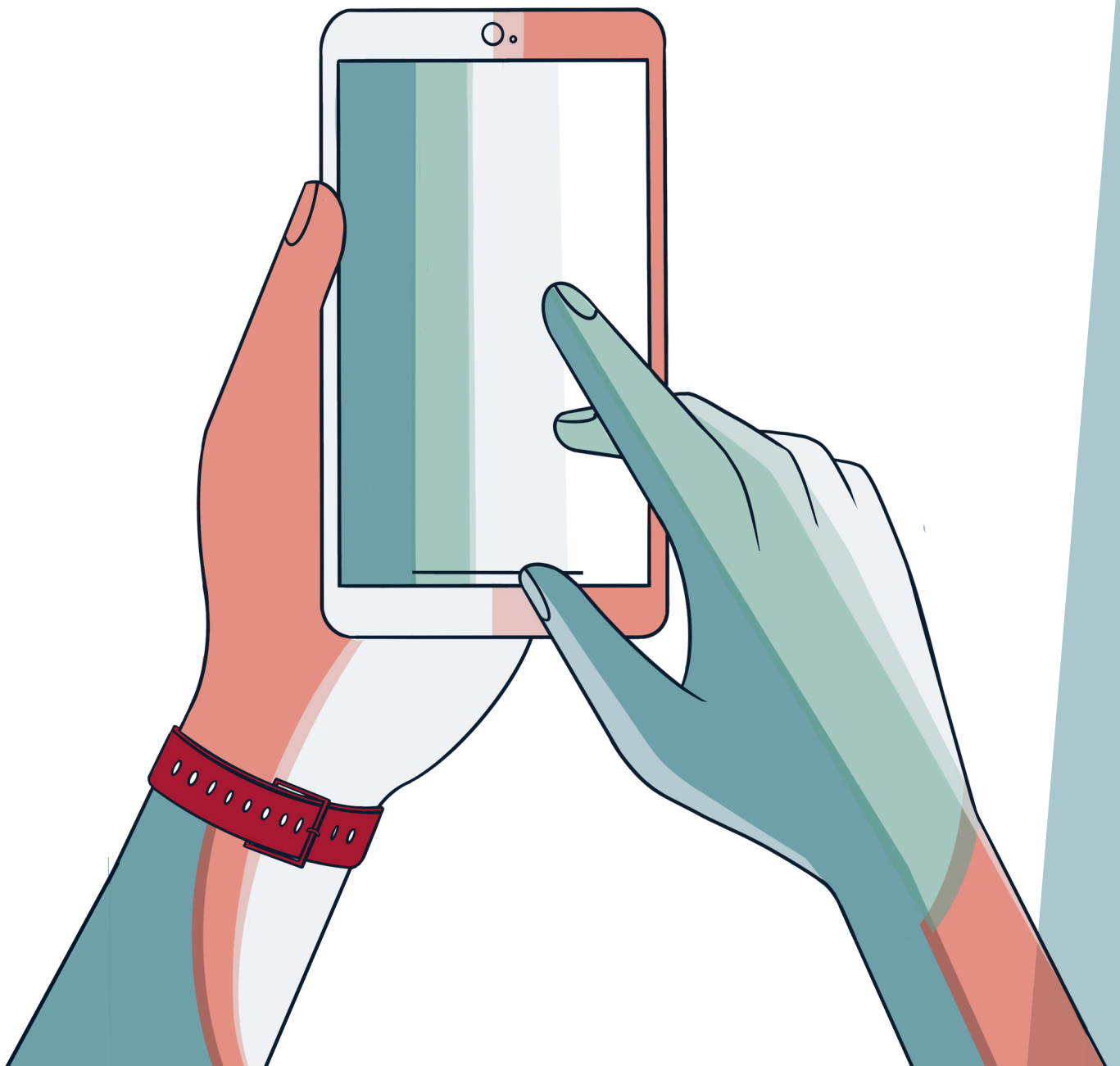




PROTECTING YOUR FAVOURITE *things*

A guide to personal possessions insurance



Hi How are you Hi there Hello Hello Hi Hello How are you Hello,

From gadgets and sporting gear to designer handbags and jewellery, we all have personal possessions that are important to us.

These possessions are usually protected by home contents insurance which you can purchase whether you own your own home or are renting. So if your home is burgled or damaged by fire or water, depending on the terms of the policy, you should be covered for the loss of personal possessions.

But what happens when we take these items away from home?

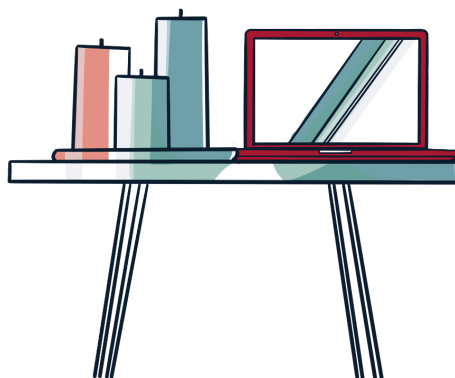
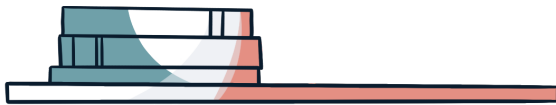
Smartphones, laptops, and watches are examples of everyday items we carry daily, many of which can be pretty valuable. However, you'd probably be surprised by the total value of the things you carry around with you.

Take a moment to make a list of the items you have in your bag or briefcase, not forgetting the value of the bags themselves. Putting the distress and inconvenience aside should you lose them or be mugged, how much would it cost you if these items were lost or stolen?

Home Insurance

Home contents insurance doesn't cover your things when you're away from home. To insure against something like a mobile left in a taxi, or a purse left at the supermarket check-out, you need personal possessions cover.

Personal possessions cover isn't included as standard on most policies and can be added for an additional cost. However, the benefits of protecting the valuables you carry outside the home should more than outweigh the extra premium involved.



What's Covered?

Personal possessions cover insures a whole family that lives at the same address, making it good value for money. It will generally cover you anywhere in the UK and usually up to 60 days abroad in any one policy year.

Like most insurance policies, terms and conditions will differ from policy to policy, and most will provide different options, allowing you to tailor the cover to your own needs. Also, items covered can vary from policy to policy, and you may need to specify particular items.

A Few Things You Need To Specify:



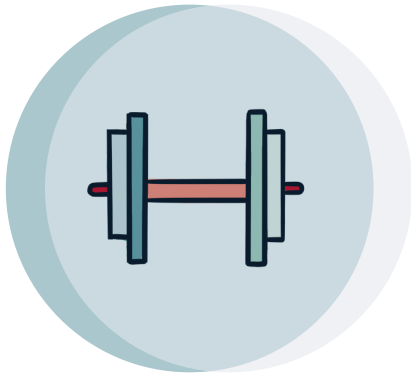
Remember to check the value of your bikes

Bikes might have to be listed separately even if they're only worth a few hundred pounds. However, some policies exclude bikes as they're considered high-risk items.



List valuable items

Valuable items costing £1,000 - £2,000+ will need to be listed separately.



Read the small print for sports equipment

Expensive sports equipment may also need to be listed separately, and remember, if damaged during its intended use, you probably won't be able to claim.



Is your cash covered?

Cash may also be protected but will be limited to a certain amount depending on the level of cover you take out – the starting point is usually in the region of £500.

Remember!

List your items for their correct value to avoid underinsuring!

Most insurers will probably impose a Single Item Limit (the maximum an insurer will pay out for any item that isn't listed separately). So if the limit is £1,500 and you claim for an item that is actually worth £2,500 that you didn't list separately, you'll only receive £1,500. So it's crucial to identify the valuable items and list them, even if it does push the premium up a bit.

Most insurers settle on a 'new for old' basis, which replaces the item lost or stolen with a new one. However, this may not be the case for clothing; if you're a fashionista and your clothes are valuable, it would be worth checking.

Working From Home

Finding the right insurance cover for your needs – whether you're an employee working from home or running your own business – is vitally important as you need adequate protection for unexpected events. Following the pandemic, most of us have been working from home, and most insurers adapted their risk stance to include cover for this. If you're continuing to work from home, you may want to check this with your insurer.

With so many different insurers and policies out there, it can be hard to know where to start. We always recommend discussing insurance with regulated professionals such as mortgage broker or financial advisor. They are well placed to help you find the right level of protection.

Equipment

Many home contents insurance policies will cover up to £5,000 of home office equipment. However, this may not be adequate to cover specialist items such as expensive audio-visual equipment. Remember that home insurance policies generally have Single Item Limits, often between £1,000 and £1,500, so you will need to declare it on your policy if you do have specialist equipment.

Suppose you are storing any goods at home. In that case, your insurer will want to know their value and whether they are in any way hazardous as this may also impact whether your home insurance policy is suitable or can be extended or whether more specialist cover is required.

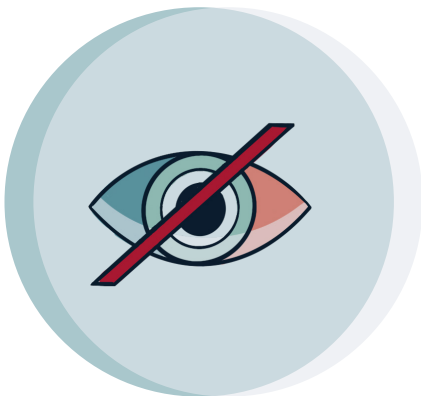
Be Upfront

It's always best to be upfront with your insurer as, believe it or not, they do want you to have the right cover in place, as it makes their job easier if you do have to make a claim!



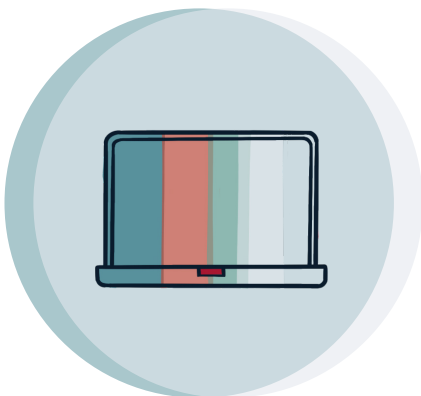
What's Not Covered?

Like most insurance cover, personal possessions insurance won't cover wear and tear or things that are damaged by everyday use. Generally, these policies won't cover possessions damaged by an electrical or mechanical fault either.



Unattended Possessions

Unattended possessions probably won't be covered, nor will items on public display be covered – if you leave the satnav on the dashboard of your car and it is stolen, it wouldn't be covered. Items like this should be locked away out of sight in the glove box or boot.



Other Possessions

Personal possessions insurance won't extend to business equipment. So if you're a builder taking tools around with you, these will need to be covered by a separate business insurance policy.

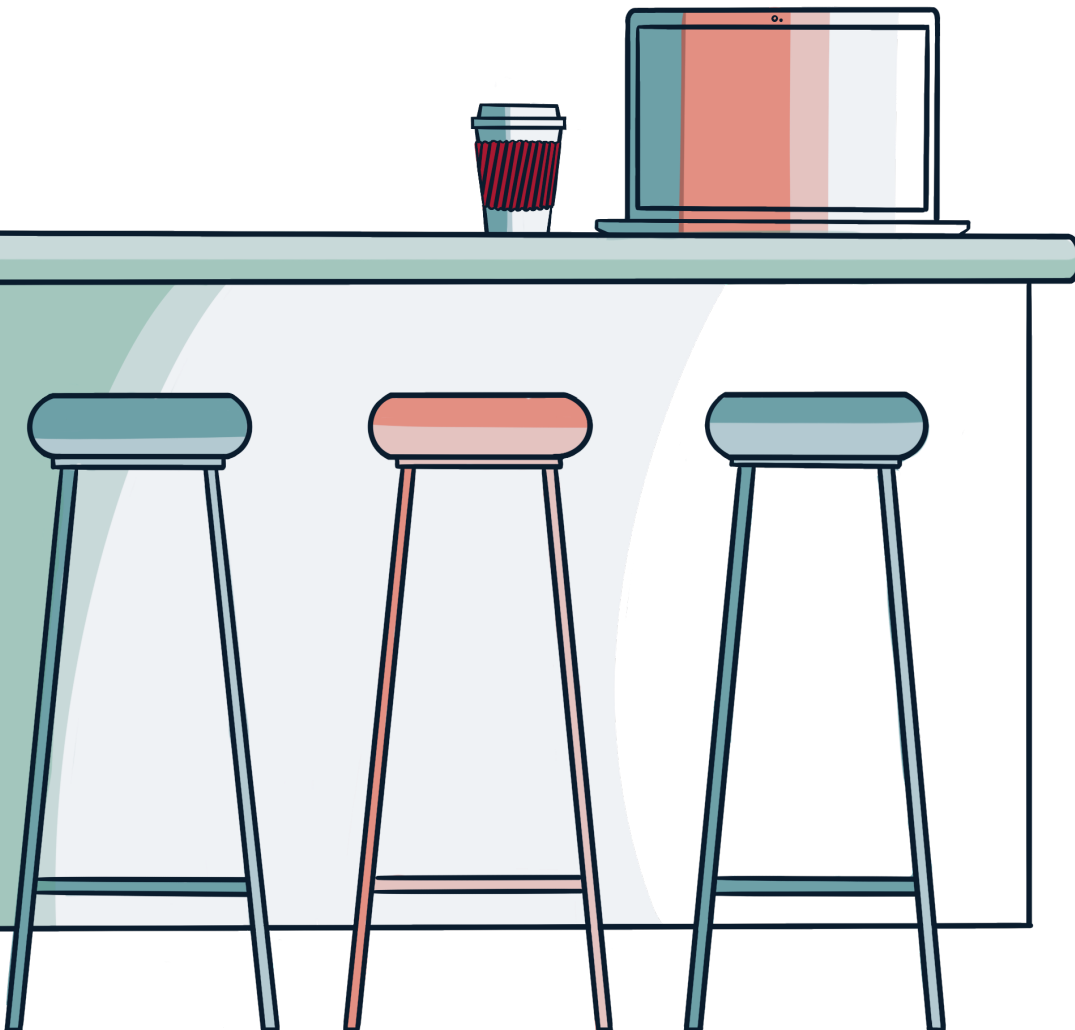
Be aware that personal possessions insurance will only cover the items that you'd reasonably carry with you or normally wear. For example, if you lend a gadget to a friend and it is damaged at their house in a fire, it won't be covered!

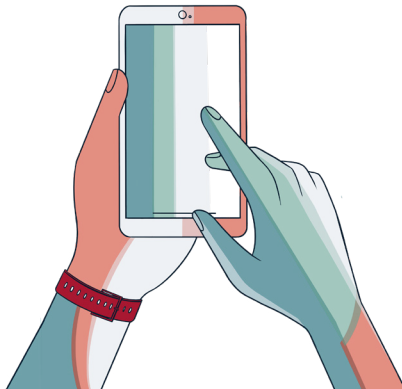


Beware of Excesses

You'll have to pay an excess for each claim (usually the same as for the contents cover), and any claim against personal possessions cover will affect your home contents policy and affect any no-claims bonus you may have built up.

Personal possessions cover is one that everyone should consider. It's a small outlay in compared to what you could have to spend replacing items.





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