

10 WAYS TO LOWER YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE COSTS

- 1.** Raise your deductible. If you can afford to pay more toward a loss that occurs, your premiums will be lower.
- 2.** Buy your homeowners and auto policies from the same company and you'll usually qualify for a discount. But make sure that the savings really yields the lowest price.
- 3.** Make your home less susceptible to damage. Keep roofs and drains in good repair. Retrofit your house to protect against natural disasters common to your area.
- 4.** Keep your home safer. Install smoke detectors, burglar alarms, and dead-bolt locks. All of these will usually qualify for a discount.
- 5.** Be sure you insure your house for the correct amount. Remember, you're covering replacement cost, not market value.
- 6.** Ask about other discounts. For example, retirees who are home more than working people may qualify for a discount on theft insurance.
- 7.** Stay with the same insurer. Especially in today's tight insurance market, your current vendor is more likely to give you a good price.