

Insurance FAQ's for Holiday Mishaps

Auto Insurance

Someone breaks your car window and steals gifts from the back seat. Most standard homeowners and rental insurance policies provide coverage. However, you are responsible for the policy deductible and there are limits. Some auto policies provide coverage for this situation. Contact your agent or company to find out under which policy you should report your claim.

A family member borrows your car and has an accident. Your auto insurance policy will provide the same coverage for your relative as if you were driving. However, an accident may increase your premium. If your family member has an accident while driving your car intoxicated, the company might not renew your policy or charge you a higher premium.

You borrow someone else's car and get into an accident. The auto policy on the borrowed vehicle provides primary coverage. If no coverage exists, your auto policy might provide coverage. Talk with your agent or insurance company to find out if your auto coverage extends to a friend or family member's car.

Homeowners Insurance

Someone steals the holiday decorations from your front yard. A standard homeowners policy typically provides coverage, subject to policy deductible and coverage limits. These items are also generally covered if you have a condominium or renter's insurance policy.

Presents are stolen from your home. Standard homeowners insurance policies provide coverage with special limits for certain goods, such as electronics and jewelry. Standard condominium and rental insurance policies provide similar coverage. Check your policy for specific item limits and be sure to add new items to your policy as soon as possible to ensure you are covered.

Credit Card Theft

Someone uses your credit card to buy a big screen television. The purchase might be covered as part of your contract with your credit card company. Standard homeowners insurance policies typically provide up to \$500 of coverage toward your legal obligation to pay your credit card company. However, there is no coverage if, for example, a family member entrusted with the card buys a big screen television.

Health Insurance

You drink bad eggnog and end up in an urgent care facility while you are out of state. Your visit is typically covered under most health insurance policies. If you plan to travel, remember to take health insurance information for all family members, including your identification cards and contact details. Co-payments with urgent care visits are typically lower than co-payments for emergency room visits. It's important to understand which doctors and hospitals are in your health insurance plan's network. If you are provided services from outside of your network, you may receive what is sometimes referred to as a "surprise bill".

