

Job Change May Trigger Need to Review Your Insurance

Congratulations on your new position — and welcome to a new set of challenges! As you adjust to your job change, watch out for its impact on your personal finances. Changes in your situation may mean you need to increase your financial protection.

Does your employer offer life insurance?

If your employer provides you life insurance, it may be ample coverage if you have no dependents and little debt. However, many people will find it's not adequate to cover their outstanding obligations, let alone provide financial security for their surviving family.

Tool: [How much life insurance do I need?](#)

If the coverage you receive through your employer falls short of your needs, consider these options:

- To supplement your employer-provided life insurance, purchase [accidental death insurance](#), a very low-cost coverage that gives your family extended financial protection if you die in a covered accident.
- If your employer's program requires employees to pay all or part of the insurance premium, check with your insurance agent to see if you can buy broader [term life insurance](#) coverage on your own at a comparable price. This is often possible if you are in good health. For access to insurance protection in just a few easy steps, consider a [simplified term life](#) policy.

Did you receive a big pay increase?

As you and your family adjust to a new standard of living, it's a good idea to review your existing life insurance coverage to be sure it keeps pace. Otherwise, if something happened to you, the insurance proceeds might not be adequate to protect your survivors' new way of life.

For example, your family could be left with a heavier financial burden if your pay increase has prompted you to:

- Move up to a bigger home
- Buy an extra vehicle, boat, or RV
- Buy a vacation home
- Enroll your children in private schools or colleges

Review your current coverage

If you do need more coverage, consider asking your insurance agent to review your current policies before you buy an additional [term life insurance](#) or [permanent life insurance](#) policy.

Starting a Small Business May Trigger Need to Review Your Insurance

When you're wrestling with the challenges of starting a business, it may seem that insurance should be far down on the priority list. And there's no question that a sound business plan, good location, quality employees, and adequate capital can help make the difference between profit and loss.

But as a new business owner, did you know about these three ways insurance can help your company grow?

- By helping you attract and keep good workers
- By helping to provide funds to further your plans and pay off obligations
- By helping to protect your premises, equipment, and vehicles

Group health insurance

A business that offers health insurance has a major advantage in competing for qualified workers. Now, more affordable small business health insurance is available to companies of any size. There can be direct profit and loss benefits, too: health insurance premiums paid by the business may reduce payroll taxes and business income tax.

Life insurance

You're the honcho, the go-to person — but what would happen if you weren't there to go to? Life insurance helps make sure your obligations will be taken care of, from paying off business loans to providing financial security for your family. Your insurance agent can also show you how to use life insurance to fund a supplemental retirement plan for yourself and key employees, or a buy/sell plan that lets someone buy your interest in the business later on.

Commercial insurance

Ask your insurance agent about commercial insurance to protect your capital assets, from computers to delivery trucks. You should also make sure of having ample liability coverage in case of an adverse legal judgment. With the right insurance, your new enterprise will have a valuable safety net.

Moving May Trigger Need to Review Your Insurance

We are a footloose lot — according to a U.S. Census Bureau report, some 46% of American households moved during a five-year span.¹ Whether you're relocating across town, across the state, or across the country, it's important not to leave your financial protection behind.

Here are some of the things you may want to consider if you're trading places:

Moving to a new house or apartment

Renters sometimes assume that the landlord's insurance covers their possessions in case of loss or damage, but that isn't the case. Unless you can afford to replace everything you own, it's a good idea to purchase [renters insurance](#) through your insurance representative.

If you're planning to buy instead of rent, you will generally be required² to have [homeowners insurance](#) in place before you can obtain a mortgage. This protects your home and its contents from a host of perils, including fire and theft. There are several types of homeowners insurance, from basic to extensive, so be sure you understand exactly what is covered before you choose a policy.

If you're concerned about how long your newly purchased home's primary systems and appliances will last, consider looking into a [home warranty](#) contract. It could save you money and worry, because major appliance repairs aren't ordinarily covered by homeowners insurance.

You might also ask yourself whether your family would be able to pay off the mortgage if something happened to you. Many homebuyers purchase financial protection in the form of [term life insurance](#) for the amount and term of the mortgage. This can be an economical way to help ensure that financial hardship won't force your survivors out of the family home. For access to insurance protection in just a few easy steps, consider a [simplified term life policy](#).

Tool: [How much life insurance do I need?](#)

What about your vehicles?

Be sure to notify your [auto insurance](#) representative of your new address. If you're moving within the state, that may be all you need to do.

Out-of-state moves are a different story. Since minimum coverage laws can differ from state to state, it pays to shop around for the best auto insurance coverage. (Be sure to apply for a new driver's license and vehicle registration, too.)

Interested in possibly reducing your premiums? Take a look at [Nine ways to save on your auto insurance rates](#).

Are you taking a new job?

Related article: [Job change](#).

A new job can mean more money and a new employee benefits program — an ideal opportunity to review whether you and your family are as well protected from financial risk as you need to be. For most workers, the two most important considerations are disability insurance, which replaces some of your income if you are unable to work, and [life insurance](#), which helps protect your survivors' financial security in the event of your death.

Have you outgrown your old home?

Related article: [A growing family](#).

When a new child in the family prompts a move to a bigger place, it's a reminder that you may need to review your life insurance coverage, too.