Get Smart

This brochure is just the beginning. Contact your state insurance department with questions you may have. For more information about insurance coverage or to find your state insurance department, visit *www.naic.org/gsw* or call 816-842-3600.

Get Smart About Insurance
Knowledge is your best policy

NAIC
making progress . . . together

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Get Smart About Insurance Week is brought to you by your state insurance department and the NAIC

Get Smart

ABOUT INSURANCE WEEK

TIPS TO HELP YOU SELECT THE RIGHT INSURANCE COVERAGE

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NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO "GET SMART" ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE!

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and your state insurance department encourage you to double-check your insurance coverage during the fourth-annual **Get Smart About Insurance Week.** Get Smart Week isn't about selling or canceling policies. It's about making sure your family is properly covered.

Recent studies by the NAIC show few Americans understand the details of their insurance policies to the extent they should, and some aren't aware they could even be the victim of a scam and unknowingly purchase a fake policy if they aren't careful.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO GET SMART ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE?

1. "Stop, Call, and Confirm" ... before buying insurance.

Fraudulent insurance companies have become an increasing problem in recent years, so the NAIC encourages consumers to help **Fight Fake Insurance**. *STOP* before buying insurance, *CALL* your state insurance department, and *CONFIRM* if the company is legitimate and licensed to do business in your state. According to most states' laws, with very few exceptions, no insurance product can be sold without the approval of the state insurance department.

2. Carefully review the insurance you currently carry and identify areas where you may need additional or decreased coverage.

Schedule a yearly insurance check-up with your agent or insurance carrier to review every policy you have… and to look for areas of too much or too little coverage. In general, you should review your coverage every 12 months or whenever there's a major change in your life (such as a new car, new home, birth or adoption of a child, etc.).

At your annual insurance check-up, don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions and be sure to take good notes.

The amount of insurance you need varies based on your circumstances. Your insurance department can tell you what types and levels of coverage your state's laws require you to carry. In general, your property should be insured for at least 80 percent of its replacement value. When considering life insurance, a good rule of thumb is to buy life insurance that is equal to five to 10 times your annual gross income.

3. Contact your state insurance department for free tips and up-to-date information prior to purchasing health, life, auto, home, or other insurance coverage.

Your state insurance department exists to serve you. It is an objective source of information on insurance companies and the coverage they offer.

Although each state is different, most insurance departments offer free guides that outline your state's insurance laws and regulations. They also may publish premium comparison reports for your use in shopping for insurance. Take advantage of the services your state insurance department offers and make yourself a smarter insurance consumer.

To help you contact your state insurance department, the NAIC Web site, *www.naic.org,* provides a map of the United States with links to each state's insurance department Web site.

4. Ask your insurance provider about discounts.

Depending on the kind of insurance you're considering, there are a number of ways to reduce the cost of coverage:

- Healthy living — Some insurers take your lifestyle into consideration when determining premiums. For instance, you may reduce the cost of coverage by stopping smoking, driving more safely, or maintaining a healthy weight.
- Good driving record — Many auto insurers will offer discounts to drivers who have not made an insurance claim, been in an automobile accident, or received a moving violation in three years.
- Good grades — Drivers who are legally classified as "youthful drivers" (this category includes men under 25 years of age and unmarried women under 21 years of age) and maintain a B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better in school often can receive discounts on their auto insurance.
- Special education or training — Some insurers offer discounts to drivers who complete a driver education or motor vehicle accident prevention course.
- Multiple policy — Some insurers offer discounts of 5 to 15 percent if you have two or more policies with them. For instance, if you already have a homeowner's policy with an insurer, find out if the insurer will discount an auto policy.
- Safety equipment — Make certain your insurers know of any safety equipment in the areas they insure. As an example, if you have an alarm on your home or auto, you may be entitled to a discount.
- Long-time policy — If you've had coverage through an insurer for a number of years, ask about a reduced premium.
- Higher deductibles — A higher deductible generally means a lower premium. But be sure to ask the agent about the pros and cons of higher deductibles before making your decision.