

Living Assured

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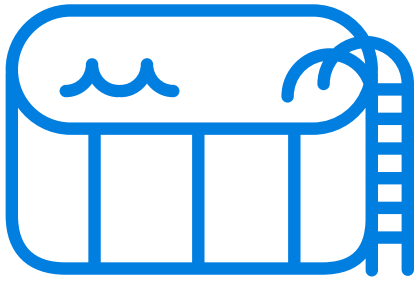
Spring into the Warmer Days Safely

**Swim Time!
Water Safety Tips**

**Why You'll Need an
"Umbrella" this Spring**

**Short-Term Rental
Coverage**

 **Preferred
Mutual**
Live Assured™



Keep Cool with Water Safety Tips

There's no better way to welcome the warmer days than with a dip in the pool or a short voyage on your boat. Celebrate the return of swim season with these safety tips.



DON'T FORGET!

Preferred offers both **Above Ground Swimming Pool** and **Boat Coverage**, designed to insure against all the mishaps that can keep you from getting the most out of your swim season!

YOUR POOL

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the fifth leading cause of accidental death for people of all ages. Reduce your risk of an accident by following these safety tips:

- Build a fence around the entire perimeter of your pool. For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured or removed when pool is not in use.
- Encourage responsible pool-time behavior and use of equipment—no running, jumping, or diving.
- Ensure that all pool equipment is working properly prior to use.
- Keep a first aid kit and rescue equipment nearby. Be prepared for rescue with a lifesaving ring, shepherd's hook, and CPR instructions. Many float-like toys are thought to be lifesavers, but they are not.
- Never leave a child unattended in or around your pool. Remove toys from in and around the pool when not in use. Toys can attract children to the water.

YOUR BOAT

Reduce your risk of an accident by following these safety tips:

- Ensure that all passengers wear life vests.
- Don't overload your boat with passengers or cargo.
- A boat is a vehicle: travel at safe speeds and never consume alcohol before/while operating.
- Know the weather forecast before you head out.
- Have an emergency plan that includes directions on how to radio for help.
- Routinely inspect the outside of your boat for build-up, rust, or damage.

Has the Value of Your Home Increased?



Did you know that certain repairs and updates can actually increase the value of your home? If your house hasn't been assessed since before you moved in, and you've made some improvements, consider having a professional appraiser review.

Realestate.com has deemed the following renovations as the best home improvements for increasing your property's value:

Replacing Main Systems

Buyers and insurers want to be assured that the main systems in your house are reliable and will not become a problem in the future. Updating your electrical, heating, plumbing, and sewer systems can help ease their concerns.

Refurbishing Attics/Basements

If your attic or basement is currently serving as just extra storage space, consider remodeling one into an additional bedroom, playroom, or theatre.

Adding a Bathroom

According to the National Association of Home Builders, an additional bathroom adds significant value to your home.

Increasing Curb Appeal

Before you invest a lot of money into the inside of your house, consider first making small improvements to the outside to increase your home's curb appeal. Replacing the garage door, installing new windows, and minor landscaping can increase your home's value and/or energy efficiency.

Updating the Kitchen

While many homeowners are willing to invest in remodeling their kitchen, even small updates can really add to the overall look and feel of the room. Consider a fresh coat of paint or replacing the hardware on your cabinets before making any large updates.

Increasing Square Footage

A 2003 study for the National Association of Realtors indicated that every 1,000 square feet added to a home increases its value by 3.3 percent.



If you've made any of these repairs, be sure to contact your independent agent to ensure that your current homeowner's policy reflects the coverage your updated home needs.



Make Sure You Have an “Umbrella” This Spring

With barbeques and get-togethers in full swing, your property is suddenly exposed to more liability risks than it has been in months. And more exposure may mean that you need more coverage – so consider adding an umbrella endorsement.

What is Personal Umbrella Coverage?

It's broad protection (like an umbrella) against the financial catastrophe that could rain down on you or your family after losing a liability lawsuit. Personal umbrella is not a replacement for your Homeowner, Automobile, or Comprehensive Personal Liability policies, it's a supplement that provides:

- Up to \$5 million limits over and above your basic Homeowner, Automobile, and Watercraft Liability policies.
- Coverage for several personal injury hazards such as libel, slander, false arrest, humiliation, defamation of character, false imprisonment, wrongful eviction, wrongful detention, malicious prosecution or invasion of privacy.
- First-dollar defense costs for covered claims, if your liability is not covered by your basic policies, subject to a modest deductible.

Why do you need Personal Umbrella Coverage?

With jury awards, out-of-court settlements, and legal fees routinely running into hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, one lawsuit could leave you financially devastated. Take the following examples:

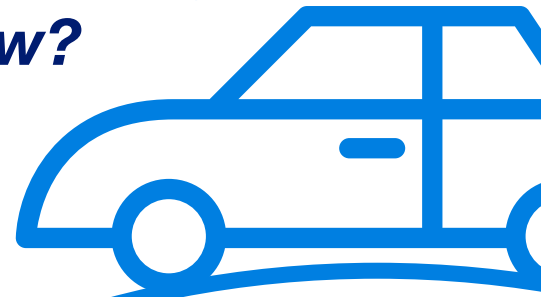
- A 12-year-old boy suffered lacerations to the lower legs and thigh when he walked by a neighbor's house and was bitten by her two dogs.
Plaintiff Verdict, Compensatory Award: \$500,000
- A man improperly installed a diving board in his former home, which later resulted in a serious injury to the home's new owner.
Out-of-court Settlement: \$2,500,000
- A 6-year-old boy suffered partial permanent impairment of one arm and hand while playing in a friend's yard and being lifted over a fence to retrieve a ball.
Compensatory Award: \$1,220,000 (later settled)
- A driver was rear-ended by an uninsured motorist, which forced the driver's car into another vehicle, causing injuries to the occupant of the front vehicle.
Out-of-court Settlement: \$1,250,000
- While playing with bb guns, a boy was shot by another boy at their friend's home.
Plaintiff Verdict, Compensatory Award: \$500,000



You can protect your family from liability risk...

Contact your local Preferred Mutual Independent Agent to find out more about Personal Umbrella coverage and get a quote!

We all know that drinking and driving is dangerous, *but did you know?*



Nearly 1/3 of traffic accidents including teens involve the use of alcohol or another substance.

Before their first arrest, it's estimated that a drunk driver will have **driven at least 80 times under the influence of alcohol.**



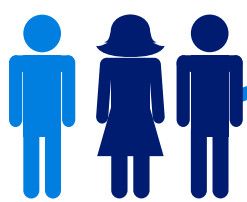
Every 90 seconds, someone is injured from a drunk-driving accident.



Approximately **one in three 8th graders** has tried alcohol.

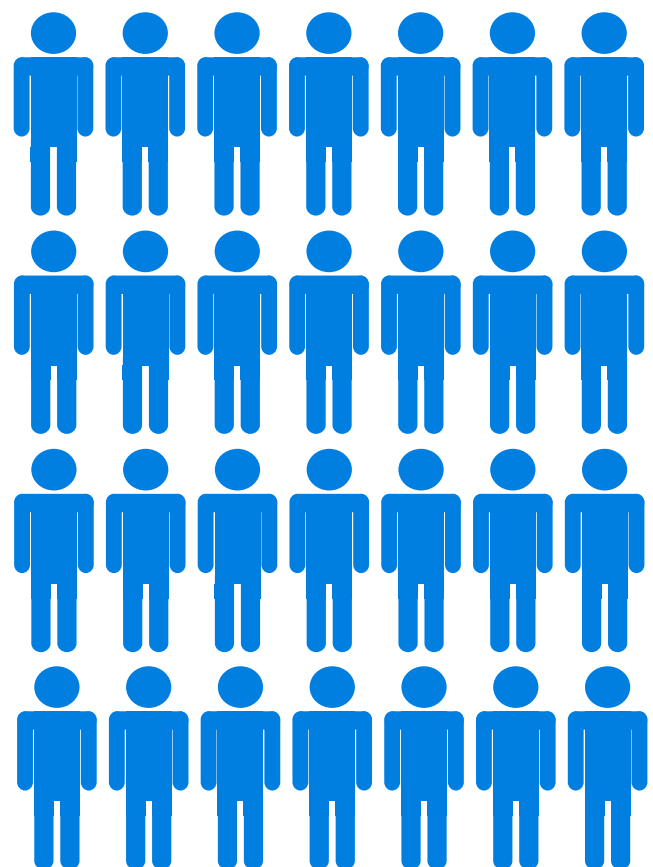


The average cost of a DUI conviction in New York state is **\$10,000.**



It's estimated that **one in three people** will be involved in a drunk-driving accident in their lifetime.

In the United States alone, **28 people die every day** as a result of drunk-driving crashes.



(Sources: dosomething.org and MADD)



Consider Short-Term Rental Coverage if Renting Out Your Home



Imagine the following scenario: You rent out your primary or seasonal home for two weeks to a family friend. While staying at your premises, that individual trips on a loose floor board, falls, and is badly injured. While you would never have imagined this person taking legal action, you suddenly find yourself in the middle of a liability lawsuit, being sued for that person's medical costs...and your insurance provider won't cover the expenses because they have deemed your short-term rental a business.

The emergence of the short-term rental trend has left homeowners and insurers in a precarious position. Since you're only renting for short periods of time, you don't see the necessity for the extra coverage that's often carried by landlords. Your insurance company, however, sees an increase in your liability and property risks.

A typical homeowner's policy provides coverage for structural damage, replacement of lost or stolen property, and personal liability. But what most homeowners don't know is that that same policy might not apply when you rent out your home for short periods of time.

So, where does that leave you? The answer is **Short-Term Coverage**, an endorsement that can be added to your pre-existing homeowner's policy. This package provides additional coverage to protect you against theft, fraud, liability, and accidents while temporary tenants are staying at your premises.

As we head into vacation season, consider whether you can really afford not to have a short-term rental endorsement. After all, you're renting out your home to make more money...why would you want to risk losing it all to a loose floor board?

There's a reason for the saying "home is where the heart is." So let us help you protect it. Contact your local agent to get a quote for Short-Term Rental Coverage.

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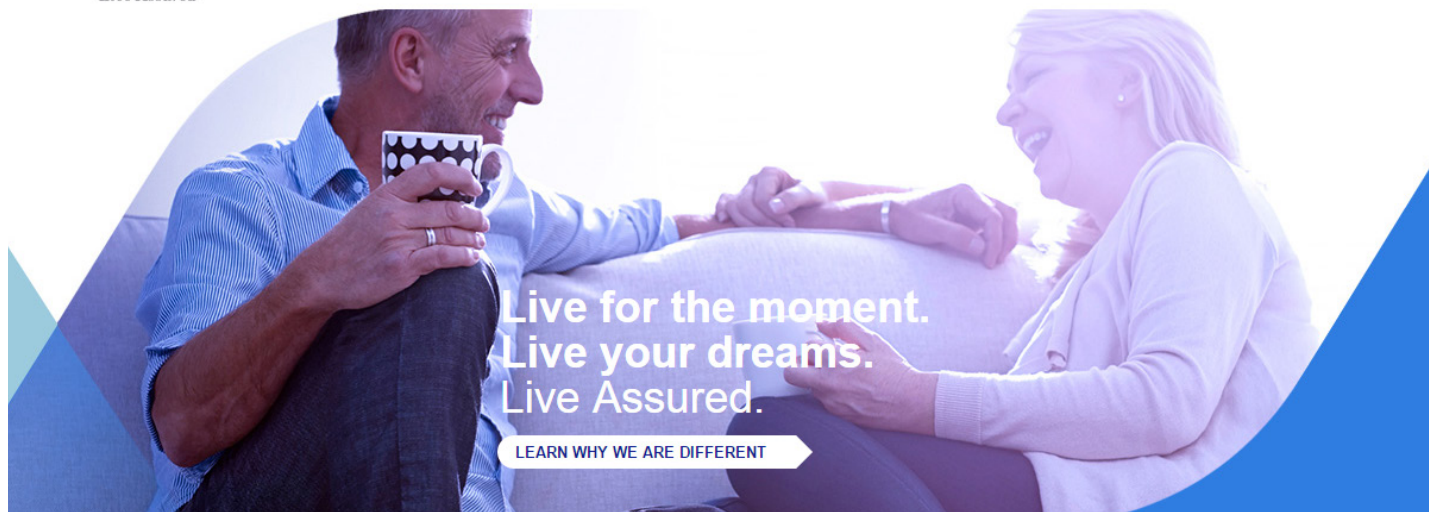
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Top Five Reasons to Sign-up for Preferred's Insured Portal



1. You can pay and view your bill online. Sign-up for paperless billing and receive email and/or text notifications.
2. Help the environment by signing-up to GO PAPERLESS on our bill and policy. You can view everything online and not have to worry about filing hard copies.
3. You can submit a claim and track the claim status online.
4. It's convenient and available for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
5. Check-out helpful consumer tips and other insurance products available.

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