

Home-Based Business Insurance

Millions of self-employed professionals operate their businesses from home and rely on their homeowner's insurance policies to provide protection for their home based businesses. While your house is protected through your homeowner's policy, your important business files, equipment and operations may not be. If you're running a business from home, or have an office but work from home regularly, you should seriously consider home-based business insurance. Most homeowner's policies exclude or restrict coverage and some even consider operating a home-based business a violation of the policy terms. Home-based business policies are designed specifically to handle the business insurance needs of a business that is operated from your home by providing coverage for business property (equipment, inventory, supplies), business-related liability exposure, and covers losses or damage (such as data or income) from business activities conducted in your home or off-site at another location.

There are three main types of home-based business policies that a policyholder should talk with an insurance agent about in order to determine which coverage option protects their type and scope of business. If you're looking for the least expensive option, you may be able to simply add a rider to a homeowner's or renter's policy to cover your exposure. This type of insurance may be appropriate for a one-person business without a lot of valuable equipment or business-related visitors, and is unlikely to suffer a major loss if unable to operate for a period of time. If your business policy needs to cover a broader spectrum of contingencies, including loss of critical documents or theft of funds being taken to the bank for deposit, you should consider an In-home business policy. This type of home business policy covers business equipment and liability for injury. The third type of policy is a Business Owners Policy (BOP) and it is the most comprehensive coverage for home-based companies. Circumstances usually covered by this type of policy include damage to or loss of business equipment or assets, liability for customer injuries, loss of critical records, malpractice or professional liability claims, and loss of income or a business interruption in the case of a power outage or natural disaster. The BOP might also protect you when driving a personal vehicle for business purposes.

In summary, do not assume that your homeowner's policy will cover your business pursuits because it most likely will not. There are effective, affordable ways to cover a home-based business that may bridge the gap between going out of business and staying afloat in the event of a claim. Consult with an agent who can help you determine which home-based business insurance solution fits your needs, addresses your risks, and mitigates your exposures.

Michael Kuperman is a Property and Casualty Insurance Agent with Manning & Nozick Insurance.



A native of Atlanta, Michael grew up in Decatur and is a graduate from The University of Georgia. He is a licensed independent insurance agent and uses a comprehensive, service oriented approach that focuses on personal and business insurance. As an independent agent, Michael represents many top carriers in the industry, which gives him the ability to compare different options across multiple companies in order to provide the best value product for his clients.

Manning & Nozick Insurance, Inc. has been serving the Atlanta area for over 70 years and is staffed by professionals who together have in excess of 110 years of experience in the industry.



To reach Michael for a free comprehensive review of your current personal or business insurance policies, contact him at michaelk@manning-nozick.com or 770-393-8311 x 121