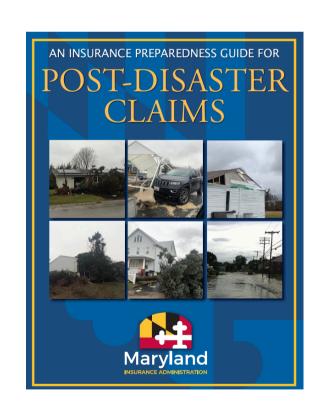


## **CONSUMER ADVISORY**

## PROPERTY DAMAGED IN A WINTER STORM? HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS

If your property was impacted by a recent snow or ice event, the Maryland Insurance Administration recommends the following steps:

- Contact your insurance company or agent immediately.
- Take photographs or video footage of any damage.
- If you have to relocate, even temporarily, make sure your insurance company or agent knows how to reach you.
- Before you remove any damaged property from the premises, be sure your insurance company's adjuster or your agent has seen it first.
- Keep all receipts for emergency repairs and for temporary living expenses.
- Make only those repairs necessary to prevent further damage to your home or business.
   Do not make permanent repairs without consulting your agent or insurance company, as unauthorized repairs may not be reimbursed.













## CONTINUED

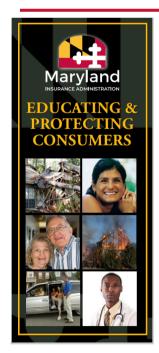
- Keep receipts of all personal property you replace.
- Obtain estimates of the damage to the property from at least two contractors.
- Make a detailed list of all damaged property.
- If your insurance company denies any part of your claim, keep all of the paperwork they send you.
- If you hire a public adjuster, understand that your insurance company is not obligated to follow what a public adjuster determines to be your loss. Also, keep in mind that you have to pay a public adjuster for their services.
- You should check your insurance policy language and ask your insurance company to determine what your policy will cover and what deductible will apply.
- If you are not satisfied with the offer from your insurance company, you do not have to accept it. Contact the company and explain why you think it is not sufficient.

If you are still not satisfied, you may contact the Insurance Administration at 1-800-492-6116 or file a complaint online at

https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Pages/FileAComplaint.aspx.

For more information about winter storms, visit our Winter Preparedness resources at https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Pages/winterpreparedness.aspx.

## **ABOUT THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION**



The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is the state agency that regulates the business of insurance in Maryland. If you feel that your insurer or insurance producer acted improperly, you have the right to file a complaint. The MIA can investigate complaints that an insurer or insurance producer has:

- Denied or delayed payment of all portions of a claim
- Improperly terminated your insurance policy
- Raised your insurance premiums without proper notice or in excess of what the law allows
- Made false statements to you in connection with the sale of insurance or the processing of insurance claims
- Overcharged you for services, including premium finance charges

Contact the Maryland Insurance Administration at: 200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2700 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

410-468-2000 | 800-492-6116 | 800-735-2258 TTY



https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Pages/FileAComplaint.aspx



This consumer guide should be used for educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal advice or opinions regarding coverage under a specific insurance policy or contract; nor should it be construed as an endorsement of any product, service, person, or organization mentioned in this guide. Please note that policy terms vary based on the particular insurer and you should contact your insurer or insurance producer (agent or broker) for more information. This publication has been produced by the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) to provide consumers with general information about insurance-related issues and/or state programs and services. This publication may contain copyrighted material which was used with permission of the copyright owner. Publication herein does not authorize any use or appropriation of such copyrighted material without consent of the owner. All publications issued by the MIA are available free of charge on the MIA's website or by request. The publication may be reproduced in its entirety without further permission of the MIA provided the text and format are not altered or amended in any way, and no fee is assessed for the publication or duplication thereof. The MIA's name and contact information must remain clearly visible, and no other name, including that of the insurer or insurance producer reproducing the publication, may appear anywhere in the reproduction. Partial reproductions are not permitted without the prior written consent of the MIA. Persons with disabilities may request this document in an alternative format. Requests should be submitted in writing to the Director of Communications at the address listed above.