

RENTERS INSURANCE: GOTTA HAVE IT!

Trap

Brittany finally completed decorating her apartment. She purchased new designer accessories which enhanced the antique furniture she inherited from her mother. That night, a pipe burst in the wall and flooded her apartment. Brittany's living room furniture was ruined and her big screen TV was damaged beyond repair. She thought her landlord's insurance would cover the replacement of her property. Later, she found out she was wrong.

Tips

Aside from broken pipes and fire damage, powerful tropical storms pose the same type of concerns for area renters. Thousands of dollars in damages can occur and your landlord's insurance policy won't cover the tenant's losses.

- Renters insurance will cover your household items including furniture, clothing, electronics, and appliances if they are damaged or destroyed.
- Liability coverage is also available if the insured is sued by someone who claims they were injured while in the apartment.
- Natural disasters like floods are typically not included. Coverage can be purchased separately through your insurance agent or company.
- You may receive a discount on your policy if your apartment contains safety features like fire extinguishers, alarm systems, or sprinklers.
- Take an inventory of appliances, electronics, jewelry, collectables and other valuable possessions. Take pictures and keep purchase receipts.
- Shop around before you buy to get the best price. Talk to your agent about deductibles and coverage available.
- Check with the Florida Department of Finance for insurance company ratings (www.fldfs.com).

**Consumer Affairs mediates Landlord/Tenant disputes.
For more information, or to file a complaint contact Consumer Affairs
Call 561-712-6600 (Boca/Delray 1-888-852-7362)**