

# Your helpful life insurance guide: Buying a home



**Amica**  
AUTO HOME LIFE

**When it comes to buying a home,** you may not realize that having life insurance is an important part of the process. Amica is here to help answer your questions and help you make an informed decision.

At Amica, we believe helpfulness is what life is all about. With that in mind, we've created this guide that'll make understanding life insurance, and the need for it, much easier for you.



# Why do you need life insurance when buying a home?

Having life insurance in place, whether you're buying or already own a home, can help ensure your family won't have to move from their home if you pass unexpectedly. The life insurance policy payment can help them with paying the mortgage.

**If you don't currently have a life insurance policy** and are buying or already have bought a home, a great way to address your needs is by purchasing a term life insurance policy. A good strategy is to match the term period and coverage amount to the duration and dollar amount of the mortgage. A term policy makes sense for this need because it addresses your short term need and is initially less expensive than a whole life policy. See the example below:

Current mortgage amount and duration

= **Term life insurance \$ amount and duration**

\$350,000, 30-year mortgage

= **\$350,000, 30-year term life insurance policy**

**If you already have a life insurance policy** (whole or term) you'll want to make sure the policy coverage is enough to help your loved ones pay the mortgage if you pass. To determine the right amount, subtract the dollar amount of your current policy by how much money is owed on the mortgage. This is the least amount of coverage (whole or term) that you should look to add to your portfolio. If buying a term policy, match the amount of time remaining on your mortgage to the term for the life insurance policy.

Current mortgage \$ amount

- current life insurance

= **additional life insurance needed**

\$200,000 and 20 years of mortgage payments remaining

- a \$100,000, 20-year term life insurance policy

= **\$100,000 whole life insurance policy or  
\$100,000, 20-year term life insurance policy needed**

To identify the right coverage for your unique needs and to see how affordable life insurance can be, give us a call today at **844-753-5433**.

# What is life insurance?

Life insurance is a contract you purchase to help ensure you can leave your family a sum of money, which will help them cover any expenses, should you unexpectedly pass away.

You choose the amount of coverage based on your family's needs, assets and future goals. This money could be used to pay for things like your final expenses, the mortgage, debts, daily expenses, future education expenses and more.

## Why do you need life insurance?

People need life insurance for many different reasons during their lifetimes, but the most common is this: **To help protect your family from financial burden if you unexpectedly pass away.**

The *greatest* benefit of having life insurance is the peace of mind you'll gain knowing that you've helped protect your family's financial security in case you're no longer there to support them. The last thing in the world you would want is for a loved one to have to bear a financial burden in addition to the emotional impact of your loss.

With life insurance, you can be confident knowing your loved ones can have help with things like:

- Paying for your final expenses
- Paying the mortgage to help keep them in their home
- Paying for your children's care and education
- Paying for everyday expenses to maintain their standard of living
- Making up for your lost income
- Paying credit card debt or medical bills
- Many other expenses

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# Types of life insurance

THERE ARE TWO BASIC TYPES OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES:

**1** **TERM LIFE INSURANCE:**  
Coverage designed to help provide protection for a specific amount of time, typically 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years. It can be used to help cover temporary needs, like a mortgage, education or income replacement. The rate and coverage amount stay the same throughout the selected period of time.

**2** **PERMANENT LIFE INSURANCE**  
Coverage designed to help provide protection for your lifetime as long as premiums are paid. This permanent protection can help ensure you have coverage for final expenses, plus it builds **cash value**, giving you more options and flexibility. A common type of permanent insurance is whole life insurance.



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At Amica, we can help you determine what type of life insurance is right for you by listening to your needs and understanding your financial goals. From there, we can guide you through your options and recommend a coverage amount that fits your unique needs and your budget.

An important thing to remember is that while your job may offer **employer-provided life insurance**, you shouldn't rely solely on this coverage. Think of this coverage as supplemental or extra because employer-provided coverage generally only provides coverage equal to one or two times your salary, and this may not address all of your coverage needs. Also, in some cases, this insurance is not transferable, so you may not be able to keep your coverage if you change or lose your job.

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### HELPFUL LIFE INSURANCE TERMS:

**Cash value:** The amount of money that accumulates in a whole life insurance policy. It typically takes at least two years to accrue and **can be borrowed against, withdrawn, or used to pay future premiums. Taxes and charges may apply.**

**Employer-provided life insurance:** A life insurance policy owned and provided by an employer that covers a group of individual employees. The life insurance policy is often provided as an employee benefit that provides coverage for one or two times the individual's annual salary and may end if the employee leaves the job or retires.

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# How much life insurance do you need?

Do other family members depend on you? No matter what stage of life you're in, it's important to consider several factors when determining how much life insurance you need. Do you have a mortgage to cover? A spouse and children? Other family members who depend on you?

At Amica, we offer a comprehensive life insurance needs calculator you can use to find out exactly how much coverage is right for you in just a few easy steps. You can find this calculator by visiting [PathwaysbyAmica.com/needs-calculator](https://PathwaysbyAmica.com/needs-calculator) or [PathwaysbyAmica.com](https://PathwaysbyAmica.com) and clicking "Get Started."

THE INFORMATION BELOW INCLUDES IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN DETERMINING THE COVERAGE AMOUNT BEST SUITED TO YOU AND YOUR UNIQUE NEEDS.

## **Match your term coverage to the term of the mortgage.**

If you have a 30-year mortgage, purchasing a 30-year term policy that's equal to or more than your mortgage amount can help cover this expense if the unexpected happens.

## **Support any family members who may depend on you.**

Whether you have aging parents or adult children, it's important to include coverage to help protect those you take care of.

## **Consider costs for child care, education and household services.**

An important part of life insurance coverage is having enough to make sure your family can maintain their standard of living. With the right amount of coverage, you can help your family to be able to stay in their home, cover child care and household needs or even help save for college expenses.

## **Include coverage for final expenses.**

Funerals and final expenses can be costly – having coverage in place will help to alleviate the burden on your family.

The list above is not meant to be exhaustive, as everyone has different needs to consider when determining the right amount of life insurance. It's also important to note that your life insurance needs can change over time. Make it a point to re-evaluate those needs at least every two years.

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65% percent of Americans say they won't buy life insurance because they believe it's too expensive. About two-thirds say their mortgage, groceries and their electric bill are keeping them from buying some or more life insurance coverage.<sup>1</sup>

"The truth is that the cost of life insurance has actually decreased over the past decade."

– Walt Zultowski, Ph.D, Principal of WZ Research + Consulting, LLC

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<sup>1</sup>Facts from LIMRA, September 2015



# How and when to file a claim

If you have life insurance or are looking to purchase it, you might not be aware of the steps your family would need to take in the event of your passing.

Typically, when a policyholder passes away, the **beneficiaries** will contact the life insurance company to report the death in order to start the process of acquiring the funds from the policy. This process is called “**filing a claim.**”

First, some general questions about the cause and circumstances of death are asked, and then the beneficiaries need to fill out a few simple forms. Dedicated Amica representatives are available to assist and make this process as easy as possible.

You will need the insurance policy, information regarding the manner and cause of death and a certified copy of the death certificate. In some instances, we may need to obtain medical history information, including doctor’s names and medical treatments.

“It was such an enormous relief that the one piece that was so vitally important, the life insurance, was easy and I had a check in record time...in the aftermath [of my husband’s death]. This was amazing to me. It was just so easy.”

– Jenna, Amica policyholder

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## IF YOU HAVE A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY, HERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT BENEFICIARIES:

**1** Make sure the beneficiaries, their addresses, Social Security numbers and other important information is up to date.

**2** Be clear when naming your beneficiaries. If someone has a common name, such as John Smith, having the correct personal and contact information will ensure we can connect with that individual.

**3** Discuss methods to provide funds for minors. For example, creating a trust is one way to provide funds for their benefit, or naming a custodian for the minor under a specific state's Uniform Transfers to Minors Act – since, as a general rule, we cannot legally pay proceeds directly to a minor beneficiary.

**4** Tell your beneficiaries that they are named on your life insurance policy. Also, let them know the name of the company, since this will make the process easier if you pass away unexpectedly.

### HELPFUL LIFE INSURANCE TERMS:

**Beneficiary:** After the insured dies, this person (sometimes more than one), trust, charity or other is designated to receive the payment of a life insurance policy. When the policy is first purchased, the owner typically chooses the beneficiary and can change it as desired.

**Filing a claim:** Process started by the insured's beneficiary(ies) with the life insurance company, in order to receive the life insurance benefits from the insured's policy after they have died.

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# About Amica

What real Amica customers are saying...

"I spoke with a representative at Amica and I thought she was great. She wanted to know how she could help me. She asked me questions about myself, my children and our medical history. Based on those conversations, they determined what was best for me. They asked me what I would need if something was to happen to me or to my children, what would I need to cover in terms of funeral arrangements, any bills that we may still have outstanding, and they took all of that into consideration and helped me determine the amount of life insurance I should get. She gave me different options and then helped me understand what my choice meant to me. That's great service and that's everything."

Brenda C., Quincy, MA

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For more than 100 years, the Amica companies have built a reputation for consistent, high-quality customer service. We offer some of the best term life insurance rates currently available and a variety of options that we'll be happy to explain, to ensure that you have the right coverage. Amica also provides financial strength you can depend on. A.M. Best<sup>2</sup>, a leading authority on insurance company financial stability, has given a rating of A+ (Superior) to Amica. Our dedication to extraordinary customer service has been recognized time after time throughout our long history. Because at Amica, we believe helpfulness is what life – and insurance – is all about.

## GET IN TOUCH

**Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. ET | Friday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET | Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET**  
**844-753-5433 Fast. Easy. Helpful.**

Visit [PathwaysbyAmica.com](https://PathwaysbyAmica.com) for helpful information about life insurance and for help on how to protect the ones you love most.

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<sup>2</sup>A.M. Best Company. Jan. 24, 2019. A+ is the second highest of 15 possible ratings. For the latest rating, access [ambest.com](https://ambest.com).